

**49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

Opening comments:

“Before we start, I just want to say how much we appreciate the Beathard family. What happened last night was very tough on [QB] C.J. [Beathard] and his family. It was a tragedy. Such a great family. We’ve been with C.J. here for three years. He’s as good as any person I’ve been around. Their family is unbelievable. I never got a chance to meet Clay, but knowing how his parents are, knowing how C.J. is, knowing the stuff they’ve told me about him, he was an unbelievably special person. Just our hearts and prayers are out with them. His dad reached out to us on text just about how great everyone has been on social media and just the respect everyone has given their family and stuff, he can’t appreciate it enough. I think everyone understands how horrible a thing that happened to their family last night. Our prayers are with them.

Alright, from the game, the only injury that we had was [DB Tarvarius Moore] T Moore. He left, was in the concussion protocol, so he never came back.”

Would you just talk about how difficult it was on you and the guys to get up to play this game?

“I think it was just tough seeing C.J. last night. Just finding out about it the way we did. Just going to be there for him and how horrible it is and there’s nothing you can really do about it or say. You’d have to ask the guys that. I know they had heavy hearts. We all knew. Everyone finds out on their phones before all of us get a chance to talk about it. Everyone knew when they got in here. People on this team really, really respect C.J. and his family and regardless of anyone for something like that to happen to is as horrible as anything I can imagine. I know C.J. left to go back there this morning to be with his family and we’ll be reaching out to him as soon as possible.”

What did QB Jimmy Garoppolo show you that last drive there, the two 3rd-n-16s?

“He was resilient. It was third-and-16, not the best situation to be in. Usually you’re not feeling great in those situations. Those guys gave him enough time in protection. I think he made the first one to [WR Kendrick] Bourne over the middle and had a similar play like that over the middle, but the safeties got real wide and got the opportunity to [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] down the field. So, the guys just to give him the time and for him to hang in there, the game just for everyone, wasn’t perfect. Offense, defense, or special teams, play calling, the quarterback, protections. Everything was up and down throughout the whole thing. There were a lot of times I think that each individual on our team could feel like they had messed some stuff up. But, each individual kept coming back and to find a way to end that game there at the end was pretty special.”

Can you take us through Sanders catch there at the end?

“We had Bourne running over the middle. They played a two-shell defense and you’re going to work Bourne in the middle if it’s a two-man type deal, but the safeties got so high and wide, I think it was somebody flat footed in the middle of the field and we were able to get over the top of them. It was a good throw, great route. Something we tried for earlier in the game, but we didn’t get the right coverage for it, but we got it there and guys made it happen.”

Is there a third-and-16 area of your play sheet you go to?

“We actually do, but yes, we do and it’s not a fun area. Until today. It went well, usually I get in I-formation and run the ball out of frustration, but that would have been bad in that situation so I’m glad I didn’t.”

When you look at third-and-16, generally, in the room, what are you thinking in terms of percentages if ever converting one of those?

"They're less than 10 percent, I know that. In the league, you watch some people on the year and it's like one out of 20 or something."

Would it surprise you if you had missed 50 in a row on third-and-16?

"No, it wouldn't surprise me at all. Usually it's such a low percentage that you don't really try on third-and-16 much. Usually you just try to survive the down and get half of it and punt. But, we were in a situation that we didn't have that and I think we struggled on third down most of the day. Just have to get in longer distances, I guess."

Since the New Orleans game, Emmanuel, before that long pass, had been quiet in terms of production against the Falcons and then tonight. Broadly, why do you think that is?

"Today was just a huge zone coverage day the way that they played. I had a feeling going into it that our guys weren't going to get a bunch of targets and stuff down the field because of how they play their coverages. We thought we were going to have to hit a number of underneath stuff and get up the field. Fortunately, they came up tight on a couple of things, so we were able to open up a little bit, getting [TE George] Kittle on that high cross when we were backed up, I think, on the series before. I think that was the start of the 90-yard drive and then we just got a couple good looks on third down. But, Emmanuel played a great game. I think all our receivers did, but it's just how the coverages worked."

Can you take us through Kittle's touchdown where he was double teamed at the very start and just what happened after Jimmy started rolling out?

"He was the number one guy to start in the progression. He was double teamed, so he got off of him. I think he looked low to the back. I didn't see what happened to the back. Then you have to go across the board to the guys coming into your vision, and by that time verse this pass rush usually, that's coach talk, if the play breaks down. Jimmy got outside the pocket and ended up making a hell of a play on third down."

Do you think that was one of those moments where Kendrick Bourne maybe didn't know how big that moment was?

"Probably. That's how KB rolls. That's why he usually comes through in those moments."

What defensive adjustments did you make at half time? It seemed like those rollouts were getting you the first half.

"I think we made some adjustments on that which I think was definitely needed. From what I saw in the second half, it looked like we slowed them down a number of times on those roll outs. They had a good plan for us, we were playing sound in the run game and when you play sound in the run game that's usually what you give up, the bootlegs and things like that. We had to make a few adjustments and they had a good plan, but I think we were able to slow it down enough in the second half."

With how the game went last week, how important was it to get a W this week?

"It was very important. To me, just as important as last week. You try not to look ahead. I thought we had to win this game no matter what. I think possibly, based on how tomorrow goes, we'd still be playing for the West next week verse Seattle. So, if that would have happened we would have dealt with that. Now, winning this, you don't have to worry about anything. Now we've got one game here left in our season before the playoffs. Got eight days to get ready for it and we're pumped about that."

Are you alluding to the importance of the first-round bye specifically?

"You would always love the first-round bye, without a doubt. You always would like two games instead of three to get to the big one and you'd always like to rest your guys if you could. But, everyone has

done it every way possible, so you never know which way is going to be the best way until the season is over then you can have hindsight. I think that's what everyone goes for, but if that doesn't happen we'll be excited with whatever situation we're in."

That game at Seattle has loomed large for a month and a half and it's as big as ever right now. Your players get an extra day to recover, but for you and your staff, how soon will you dive into preparation for that game?

"We'll do it like we always do. I'd like to say we can't do much more than we do in any week. If we tried to do a lot more, we'll probably overthink it and mess everything up. We've got eight days, hopefully we'll only need seven. So, we can be smart with that and come up with as good of a plan as we can."

You said you talked to C.J. last night. Generally, what was that like?

"Tough. Probably exactly like you guys would expect. I got the call. He called me at about three in the morning. I was in the hotel, so I was able to go down and be with him. There's not much you can say. You just try to hold a person and be there for him. We tried to figure it out, what we could do and the quickest way to get him to his family. But, that was probably my first time in a situation like that, but I think it's exactly what anybody would expect. There's nothing to say and it's as tragic and as sad of a thing that can happen. So, to me when you try to say stuff, you're just, you're insulting the situation. It's as bad as it gets and you just have to be there for them and it will be a hard deal to recover from, but he's as strong as any person I've been around."

With so many games coming down to that last-minute field goal, are you getting used to it at any point?

"You get used to it happening, but your body still feels the same. Not great. We'll go rest after this, but it's a lot of fun. I mean, as long as you win them, it's a lot of fun. It's good practice. That's how most of these games get when you go against good teams and that's how most games are in the playoffs. I think we've gotten battle tested throughout this year and hopefully that will pay off for us here in the long run."

**49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo
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Why do you love third and 16 so much?

"It's the exact situation we were looking for. [Laugh] To convert two of those the way we did, it was pretty incredible. A lot of good execution, guys up front blocking them for as long as they needed to and then, obviously, guys just making plays down the field."

Walk us through each of them.

"Yeah, so the one to [WR Kendrick Bourne] KB, just felt the linebackers, they got a ton of depth and everything. We had a couple different options on it, saw a little window in there and didn't know if I was going to have any other windows. So, I just let it rip and KB made a great, came back to the ball, perfect timing and everything. He just made a great play on it. Then the one to [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders], safeties were high and wide. They got a little too wide and I knew we had a post on, so just wanted to give him an opportunity. My arm got hit as I threw it, so I got a little nervous, but he just made a great play. It was awesome."

What's the key to maintain your confidence after getting off to a sluggish start offensively in that second half?

"We just had to stay the course, really. It wasn't like they were doing anything to really take away what we were trying to do, we were just killing ourselves. Everyone just kind of calmed down on the sideline,

we got back on track and it was just putting together a good drive, one play after another. That's really what it was."

How gratifying for you, though, was it to get those big third down plays? You guys struggled the whole game on third down conversions.

"Yeah, especially in the situation that we were in. You don't want to be in that situation, but the way we converted, it was huge."

Kendrick said you had told him to cut his route a little earlier because of the pressure coming on. How often do you guys make those sort of adjustments?

"Those are kind of in-game adjustments, just kind of when you're feeling the game out, I guess. Yeah, KB's real cool with all that stuff. He adjusts well on the fly, he's willing to do all that stuff. It's nice to have a guy like that."

Considering how many times you were hit today, how do you find the confidence to stand there and third and 16, kind of in a long developing play to hit Emmanuel down field? Where do you find that confidence?

"Those guys up front, they battle their ass off every game. I owe it to those guys. They played a great game today. It was a dog fight up front. That's a great D-line and they challenged us. Those guys up front for us just battled their asses off and I love those guys."

Were you able to talk to QB C.J. Beathard at all this morning or contact him?

"I shot him a text. I'm sure he's going through a ton of stuff, I can't even imagine. I think everyone in the locker room feels the same way for him. I can't even comprehend the situation. Everyone's got his back. We love him."

How do you determine when you're going to take off? It seemed like you started using your legs more when you got out of the pocket. What is the determination of when you choose to use your legs?

"I don't want to. I would rather pass, but when a play breaks down or say they pick the right coverage and get us, sometimes that stuff happens. I think just being able to convert some of the first downs that way makes defenses look at you a little differently. It's not the way we intended it, but it's always a good thing."

Is there a reason why you don't want to? It seemed like you look pretty good at running.

"I'm decent at passing."

Take us through the touchdown to TE George Kittle and what happened specifically after it seemed like they took him away with two guys from the jump?

"That was kind of the red zone plan from the get go, just take George away. He just kept working, broke the pocket and those plays, it's just kind of a happening. You never know what's going to happen, but George just, he had a feel for the space, came downhill and got a touchdown."

How much are you looking forward to next week's start in Seattle? I think it's your first career start there and especially with everything that's at stake.

"Yeah, it'll be cool. Try to enjoy this one for the night and move on. Got an extra day this week, so that'll be big for us. Every game from here on out is big."

When you take as many hits as you took tonight, what's the frustration level at that point in the game getting sacked like that?

"It's not frustration. There's a million different things. I was holding the ball too long on some of those, so just got to get the ball out on time. You've got to stick to the plan, stay the course. You're going to hit some ups and downs and that's kind of what we went through this game. I think guys just stayed mentally tough, stayed right in the middle and it proved well for us in the end there."

Is there a sense that to win a game the way you guys did it with the two third and 16's and such a situation like that that it's even more fun than winning a game in a conventional way?

"It's fun if you win it, yeah. We don't intend for those situations, but just the way it happened and everything, guys battling, defense making huge plays, it was a real complimentary football game today. I know I've said that before, but today we showed it more than ever. We can win in different ways. [LB] Fred [Warner] having a huge pick-six, defense playing great, special teams making big plays. It was all that tied together and it made for a fun night."

At Seattle has been a pretty significant place for this franchise, especially in recent memory. What are you expecting that to be like? It's going to be your first time, it's going to have a lot of meaning, a lot on the line. What's that going to be like for you, you think?

"Oh yeah. It's going to be loud. We know it's going to be a hostile environment. I can't wait for it. It's going to be awesome. It's going to be a great challenge for us. All these games, it seems like every week is a big game and this time of year, they all are. We'll go in there with the right mindset, prepare for these guys and make it happen."

**49ers DL Arik Armstead
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

I know you're going to enjoy this one, but you've got to be thinking about next week.

"Yeah, for sure. We've got another big one coming up. Take the evening to enjoy this one and then get back to work."

They were able to move the ball pretty efficiently on you for about three, three and a half quarters. How did you guys make the adjustment to stop them?

"You've got to have a high-powered offense playing against them and what they do. We had to make some adjustments and keep playing hard, and try to stop what they were doing. They were getting the boot and play action game going, and so we had to adjust to that."

How does this help you guys going further? You guys have won in so many dramatic ways this season. How do you think that's going to help--?

"Win any way possible. It's another game, another close game. They all seem close. We were able to pull out a win in kind of a crazy way. So, just find ways to win and keep advancing and move onto the next game."

Does this one give you guys momentum heading into that big showdown next weekend against Seattle?

"It was definitely a game we needed to win. This Seattle game we need to win as well, and I know we're going to be up for it. Looking forward to it. It's going to be a huge game, division game just like this one, and I know we can't wait."

**49ers DL DeForest Buckner
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

How unlikely is it to see your team convert a pair of third and 16's on a final drive back to back?

"Honestly, lately the offense has been playing lights out. To make big plays like that, it all goes to the entire offense. [QB] Jimmy [Garoppolo], that play before he hit [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders], he took a big sack and he ended up making a big play. That goes to the O-Line. The O-Line was fighting their tails off. Everyone. Being on the sideline and seeing them take the field, it's great to see as a defensive player."

Was it frustrating in the first half when they kept on rolling Los Angeles Rams QB Jared Goff out and you guys weren't able to stop that?

"I don't know, you tell me. Yeah, it's definitely frustrating. Teams are going to game plan against us. Obviously, they didn't want him to get hit. The first game we pretty much teed off on him. We made him frustrated. I think it was a career low for him in passing the ball. They needed to find ways to get him out of the pocket and try to make plays. The coaches did a really good job of adjusting and trying to get pressure in his face."

It got back to that point in the second half, did it feel like the first time you guys played them?

"A little. He was still throwing the ball a lot. We couldn't really finish the play and get sacks, but we were putting pressure on him and causing some bad throws."

**49ers K Robbie Gould
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

When you are lined up for the game winning kick, what is going through your mind?

"Just to make it, trust your keys, trust your rhythm that you had developed throughout the game. [49ers LS] Kyle Nelson and [49ers P] Mitch Wishnowsky have done a really good job the last couple of weeks of finding our stride and our operation has been really good. The guys up front are doing a great job blocking. We just have to keep grooving and getting in that rhythm and we have a couple of more games left to play."

Is that a fine line of not over thinking it and yet saying I know what my mechanics are, I have to just go through them. Do you have to treat this kick like it is a routine kick?

"It is a routine kick. I love that moment. That is what you live for. When you have guys that are around you on offense that converts three third-and-longs and makes that kick a 33 yarder instead of a 50 yarder. Those are times that you have to appreciate those guys driving the ball. You have to appreciate the guys that are around the operation and how hard we have been working to make it right. We just have to keep it going."

For a while we have been pointing to the last game of the year and you guys as football teams have been saying that you're not thinking of that. Now we can talk about the Seattle Seahawks going up there, do you feel like you owe those guys something?

"Well it is definitely going to be a good one. Obviously when you are playing for the division and they are your division rivals, it is a game that we have been waiting a couple of years for and preparing for. This is a team that doesn't get too high or too low at any given moment. We just focus on the job at hand every day and go out there and perform the best that you can to give yourself a chance to win."

**49ers WR Richie James Jr.
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

Can you tell us about that run back?

“It was just one of those things where I thought it was a touchback. It ended up not being a touchback and my guys had some good blocks set up and I made some cuts off of them.”

This has been a team where guys can contribute anyway that they can. How does that make you feel when you get to contribute like that?

“It made me feel good. We won by three points and that kind of set it up to get an early three out there. It felt good to be able to contribute but we have a long way to go.”

This seems to be your guys M O, heart stoppers all the way to the finish. How can this help you down the road?

“We are in close games. That is a test to us and we need those tests early so it is definitely going to help us down the road.”

What is the feeling when you see San Francisco 49ers K Robbie Gould lined up to kick the game winner?

“I am just thinking win. That is all that I am thinking win, win, win.”

**49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

How long do you figure you can mentally relax and recuperate from this game before starting to think seriously about what is going to be a huge game against Seattle?

“The old 24 hour rule. We get to enjoy it for the night and then we will get our minds right against Seattle.”

Winning so many games by just a field goal, is this the M.O. of this team now?

“By any means necessary. It is December football and we are playing against some really good teams. A team, that was playing February last year. There are going to be close games. That is something we are built for now.”

How important was it not to get a losing streak going?

“I think it was important for us to get this win under our belt, and to get back on to that winning page that we have been on. It is always a confidence booster to get a win.”

What do you make of being able to convert on consecutive 3rd and 16's?

“It is pretty impressive by both of those guys. [San Francisco 49ers WR] Kendrick [Bourne] and [San Francisco 49ers WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] both ran incredible routes. Great job by KB to come back and get the ball and be aggressive. It says a lot for [San Francisco 49ers QB] Jimmy [Garoppolo] to be able to step in there and rip it. I know he was feeling it today, so for him to make those plays at the end of the game is awesome.”

You guys have clinched a playoff position, but what would it mean for the franchise to go up to a place like Seattle and win the division outright by beating the enemy on enemy turf?

"I think that is everything. That is what you play football for. These are the kind of games that you dream about when you are a kid. We are really looking forward to that, and it would mean a lot to get the W."

**49ers TE George Kittle
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
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A few days ago, you were up here saying you're hoping that you guys would have a fire lit under your team. Did you see that? Did you see this coming? Do you think your team delivered?

"Yeah, I think the offense definitely. We started off a little slow. We got it rolling, though. I want to thank our fans for that. They definitely had our backs the entire game and they were rolling, even when we weren't producing. We finally got a couple plays to click and the stadium just lit up. That got us going too. Just a big thank you to them. On our team, we rebounded. [49ers head] coach [Kyle] Shanahan had a great message all week. This is playoff ball now. Every game gets us toward our goal. Fortunately, we got that done tonight."

Is third and sixteen just 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo's bag?

"Yeah, he's pretty damn good. He delivered that multiple times. He's just an incredible quarterback. No matter what happens throughout the game, whether he has a poor decision or something like that, he always bounces back and he always delivers. That's why we love Jimmy. That's the reason we are who we are. He keeps delivering and nothing that he does is B.S. He's a genuine guy and he just delivers 24/7."

**49ers WR Deebo Samuel
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
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Did it stun you to see 49ers WR Emmanuel Sanders wide open down the field and see 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo be able to get that off?

"We actually called the play for the safety to bite down, and he did, and Jimmy let it rip. So me personally, I think Emmanuel had a walk off touchdown. He is one of those secure the bag type of guys. So catch it and let's kick this field goal and win the game."

What does this win do for the whole mood now going into Seattle?

"We have to keep the same mindset of everyone staying positive and we know what we have to do next week in order to get things done."

Can you go over your touchdown play?

"It was just a sweep to the left. I got around the edge and beat the guy. All I saw was the end zone."

Did you expect to have three carries out of the backfield?

"It was something we worked on this week. The way it was going it was working at the moment, so we just keep going back to it."

**49ers WR Emmanuel Sanders
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
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Can you take us through the long catch?

“Yes. [49ers head coach] Kyle Shanahan gave me a chance truthfully. It was a great call. I would say that I did something but I just felt like I just had to run and the ball was there. I just tried to secure the catch and get in field goal range and [49ers K Robbie] Gould was able to hit it.”

Since that New Orleans Saints game you have been mostly quiet from a production standpoint, can you explain why you able to bounce back?

“I don’t care about a bounce back story, I just care about a winning story. Right now we came off of a great win. Obviously, we lost versus Atlanta which left a sorry taste in our mouth, so it felt good to get back on track, to get a win. But, at the end of the day, we have Seattle coming up. We have to go out there and handle business.”

How does this win propel you to that big showdown next week?

“Now it means more. Obviously, we had to beat the Los Angeles Rams for that game to matter and now that we beat the Rams, that will be a big-time game. I am looking forward to sitting at home and watching these guys play tomorrow, watching film, preparing all week and hopefully we can go out there and leave with a W.”

**49ers CB Richard Sherman
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
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You’ve been a part of some great football games, legendary football teams, what’s this football team becoming in your eyes?

“Very unique. I try not to go back to things and compare and contrast. I think I’ll do that at the end of my career, once it’s all said and done, hang the cleats up, but this is a special team. Guys care about each other, guys care about winning, guys go out there and execute. They fight until the last second, that’s what special. It’s not always special. It’s not always how you draw it up, but when you got guys willing to fight tooth and nail, until the last straw, the last play, the last moment, you got a chance. That’s what our offense did, our defense did. We made the plays we needed to make to win the game. Thankful for our defense. I’m thankful for our offense. I’m thankful for our special teams because all three phases made plays today. [49ers WR] Richie James [Jr.] started the game off with a heck of a kick return. On our offense, [49ers QB] Jimmy [Garoppolo] made some great plays. KB [49ers WR Kendrick Bourne] came through in the clutch. During the whole game, [49ers WR] Deebo [Samuel] was making huge plays. Juice [49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk] had a huge play. [49ers RB] Raheem [Mostert], you know, it’s multiple people. It’s not just one guy. [49ers TE George] Kittle of course made huge plays for us. You’re thankful that you got so many guys that you can depend on. On defense, everybody is making plays. [49ers LB] Fred [Warner] makes a huge play, pick-six. The first pick of his career and it’s a pick-six in a big game on Saturday night football. That’s what you appreciate. You appreciate guys understanding the moment, but not panicking. They’re playing great football and they are really stepping up to the challenge. That’s what I honor.”

Winning so many games by just a field goal, is that the M.O. of this team?

“I don’t know what the M.O. is. Winning. You just win, whatever it takes. Whether it’s a point, half a point, quarter of a point, three points, 40, that’s a win. That’s what we need, especially going down the stretch, you got to win these weird games. You got to learn how to win every way you can. That’s what you got to do in the playoffs. This was another great lesson.”

Could you go on about how the defense adjusted? Seemed like Los Angeles Rams QB Jared Goff was in a lot of bootlegs and roll-outs early.

“Well they didn’t want him to get hit, so they didn’t go straight drop back. They were going naked edges because our D-ends were playing and pushing them deep. [Defensive coordinator Robert] Saleh made a great adjustment to let the D-ends go up field and put some pressure in his face. He started to throw some errant passes. We were unable to take advantage on a couple of them. We got hit in the face with the ball and we got to make the play. We made enough stops to win.”

**49ers LB Fred Warner
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
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Can you take us through tonight’s pick-six?

“Yeah, honestly, I just did my job. We were in man coverage and the back kind of, he checked in the protection and then ran a flat route. I hugged up on him and I think [Los Angeles Rams QB] Jared [Goff] probably would want to have that one back, but he just tossed it up and I took it. I took it home.”

Did it feel like you were due for one? You’ve had a couple this year that kind of slipped through your fingers.

“I knew it was going to be in God’s timing. That’s the play that I’ve wanted my whole career, or short career I should say. Glad I could get it in that moment.”

San Francisco DL DeForest Buckner kind of talked about it, but how big of a momentum shifter was that considering you guys were heading into the locker room and you guys take the lead for the first time in the game and get the ball offensively coming out of the break?

“Oh yeah, you hit it on the head, or DeFo did. We knew that we had to make a big play to get us going. We’ve talked about it for weeks now that we’ve got to attack the ball if we want to give our team the chance to win. So, yeah, it was great timing.”

**Rams Head Coach Sean McVay
Press Conference – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

Opening comments:

“Congratulations to the 49ers. Great win by them. It was a great, hard-fought battle back and forth, comes down to the wire. They made the plays to be able to win it. We didn’t do a good enough job of that and unfortunately, that means that our postseason chances are eliminated, but I know this, we’ve got an opportunity to finish this season the right way. Finish with a winning season and we’ve got a bunch of winners in that locker room, and that’s what I expect us to do as we move forward into Week 17 against a tough Arizona Cardinals team.”

Can you just talk about the disappointment of going from the Super Bowl one year to the playoff before Week 17 the next?

“Yeah, I mean it’s fresh right now. I think it’s tough because you care so much about these players, the work that they’ve put in and you want to do your part to see those guys have that success, and get an opportunity to compete for a world championship. We’re not going to do that but I do trust that we’re made of the right stuff. I know that once we get through next week I can’t wait to attack the offseason, figure out how I can be better for this football team as we move forward and I think these scars are going to make us better.”

The 46-yard catch by San Francisco 49ers WR Emmanuel Sanders, what did you see? I don't know if there was a miscommunication between Los Angeles Rams CB Jalen Ramsey and Los Angeles Rams S Taylor Rapp, I guess, what exactly happened there?

"Yeah, we were in a certain call that entails some communication. We use some different tools and it was a situation that we've got to be better in right there. They made the play. Good job by [San Francisco 49ers QB Jimmy] Garoppolo making the throw and Emmanuel making the catch, and that got them into field goal range, and they ended up winning it by that one."

Was Taylor supposed to pick him up there, is that what was--?

"Yeah, I don't want to get into the specifics on what should have occurred on that. Bottom line is you had two third-down and I want to say sixteens where we had a chance to get those guys off the grass, the way that we had played the whole night. I think those two plays are not indicative of the effort that our defense gave and it's unfortunate that they ended that way, because they had put together a really good performance against a tough offense, but those two plays hurt us and we've got to be better there."

Were you sitting there feeling like, if we get the ball back you have a good feeling?

"Yeah, I felt like on the first third-down that we were going to get that stop. We had done some good stuff and they ended up hitting verses a zone that we were in right over the middle, and I think it was [San Francisco 49ers WR Kendrick] Bourne ended up making the first down right there on that first third-down where I thought we were going to be able to even have a timeout in our back pocket, but it didn't work out that way. We'll go back, we'll look at this film, we'll clean it up, and then we'll respond and finish this thing off the right way with some pride like I know that those guys will do. Like I know our coaching staff will do and as sick as you are, I don't know anything else other than that, to do that."

What went into this game being so different from the first meeting with the 49ers?

"I think each week is a different week and as the game unfolded guys made enough plays, and kept it interesting. I think it was two good teams going at it and unfortunately, we came up on the short end tonight."

How do you process the disappointment? Obviously, it's very fresh right now.

"Yeah. I think you're in the midst of doing that right now, but I know this, we're going to look at this film, and we're going to move on, and we're going to do everything we can to finish this season off the right way. To be able to finish with a winning record, that's the next thing. You always have the playoffs and now that that's out the window, alright well hey, let's have some pride. We get 16 opportunities like we've talked about. This represents the final game of the season for this team, and love those guys in that locker room, and want to make sure that I'm doing my part to get us ready to try to have a good performance and cap it off the right way."

**Rams QB Jared Goff
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

How disappointing is it to be eliminated from the playoffs after making the Super Bowl?

"It's extremely disappointing. You never envision something like this when you start the year. It's not even close to the standard that we want to hold. It's sickening. It's something that you never want to go through. It's something that myself personally and our team will be driven to not feel this again. It's not a good feeling. We have what we need. We just need to put it together. For some reason this year, we weren't able to do it all of the time."

Did this game feel like how the season has gone with great moments and then tough moments?

"It was a great game. It was a great football game. They played really well. You have to tip your cap to them. The way they played offensively and defensively was really good. We're a good team. For them to beat us like that is a hat tip to them. Ultimately, it's up to us every Sunday in that time that we're on the field to make the plays that we need to make to win the game. More times than not today we didn't do that."

It looked like play action was working very well for you guys in the first half.

"[Los Angeles Rams head coach] Sean McVay just kept calling it. It was part of our plan to run a little bit and then get me on the outside. It was a great plan. It worked. I thought we did a great job executing it."

How did you get your feet back under you, collectively as a team, after that pick six?

"It's always part of the job. You have to respond to that. That's just a mistake I can't make there. It's a bad one. It will probably eat at me for a while. At the end of the half, you just have to be more careful with the ball. You just have to be more careful and take care of it in that situation. It's something I'll learn from."

It seems like you guys, not long after that, got back to what was working.

"It took a drive or two, but we got back to who we are. I've said it multiple times, it's about how you respond. I've always taken that approach personally. I know our team does too. We have good character guys in this building. It will be a good test to see how we respond this week."

Now that you've been through a season after the Super Bowl, do you think there's anything to a Super Bowl hangover?

"I don't. I think we were in plenty of games and had plenty of chances to win games. The ball goes here or there a couple of times and we're having a completely different conversation right now. The ball didn't go our way this year, and we didn't execute to our ability. It has absolutely nothing to do with what happened last year."

Going into next week, what is your mindset?

"It's being who you say you are. We have a good group in there. Even though we are eliminated, you play for some pride at this point. As tough of a pill as that is to swallow, that's what you have to do. We have some guys in there that will do that. It will be the last one at the Coliseum. You want to finish the season with a win. From a pride standpoint, you want to finish on the right foot."

**Rams DT Aaron Donald
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

Now that you know you're not going to the playoffs, what's the emotion?

"It's tough. All we can do now is finish this last game strong and try and prepare to come back better next year."

You had two third-and-16's on the last drive. That's got to be a dream for guys like you.

"I felt like we were putting pressure. We were there but he [San Francisco 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo] was making some good throws. We were about to get him, if we had a second longer. He made two good passes to help his team to win."

What do you think happened to you guys this season a year after going to the Super Bowl?

"We just weren't consistent. We had a lot of ups and downs. Each week is different, no matter what the other team's record is. When you come out flat some games, you're going to lose. We had to be more consistent. It was just a bad year for us. We have to bounce back next year."

What has the season been like for you?

"It's been frustrating. Any time you lose it's going to be frustrating. No matter how many plays you make, if you're not winning it doesn't matter. We just have to find ways to be better."

Was there such a thing as a Super Bowl hangover?

"No. It was just not being consistent and not playing the game of football like we were supposed to. When you don't, you lose."

**Rams RB Todd Gurley II
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

How disappointing is a loss like this? What do you take away from it?

"It's very disappointing. Obviously not accomplishing the bigger picture and the goal we had in mind of making the playoffs, but that's life."

How would you characterize the season? At moments, you were among the best and then you guys really struggled. How do you see the season play out?

"We had our moments. We just couldn't figure it out. Sometimes, we figured it out. Today, we came out striking, but couldn't finish. We have to be able to finish in this league. That's part of winning games and making it to the playoffs. You have to win those little games. We just couldn't find a way to win a lot of those little games."

Did you feel like a year after the Super Bowl you fell into a pattern where teams just struggle a year after?

"We just didn't get it done. It was a disappointing year, but we've got one more game. We need to finish on a good note, have a winning season and guys can go home and spend the offseason with their families. Thank God it's the holiday season."

Your defense had a couple of third-and-16s at the end. Were you thinking on the sidelines that you were going to get a chance or get a good shot at this?

"It is what it is. I'm not going to point fingers on defense, offense or special teams. We're all in this together. It is what it is."

**Rams LB Clay Matthews
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

How would you characterize the season?

"I think we just didn't play consistently throughout the year. At times, we played like the number one team in the conference, and at other times we played like we had no business being out there. Unfortunately, we're in the position we are today because of that. We go from shutting down the number one seed in Seattle and then coming out here where this game could have gone very much either way, playing them as hard as we did. It just didn't go our way. Our consistency is probably the biggest message, or the biggest thing that we would probably need to hit on in order to put us in a better position."

Did that make it all the more frustrating knowing what you could do and what this team is capable of?

"It's obviously disappointing anytime you miss the playoffs. Fortunately for me, the first eight years in my career, we made it look easy in Green Bay. Based on injuries and coaching changes, the draft, free agent acquisition, whatever it is, teams are going to continue to advance. You're either getting better or worse. There's so much parity in this league that it's difficult to stay on top. You see it from this team this year as opposed to what it was last year. So it's disappointing in that regard because of what we have and what we're capable of."

Rams CB Jalen Ramsey
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams

When you were traded to the Rams, would it be fair to say you thought you were going to a team that was contending for the playoffs. If so, how disappointing is it to be eliminated?

"Of course I did. I'm very disappointed."

You were questionable and then you came back. What happened with the injury and how were you able to come back?

"I don't know what's going on right now. I wanted to play, so nothing was going to stop me from playing. I'd worry about it after the game."

When did you hurt your knee?

"Sometime in the first quarter."

Any satisfaction getting your first interception with the Rams?

"No."

Rams T Andrew Whitworth
Postgame Quotes – December 21, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Los Angeles Rams

How would you describe the season as a whole?

"Tonight summed it up. It is what it is. It's just been that way. Really, all year long, it's been one of those things where you can't get situations to bounce our way. That's kind of how it's gone this year. The thing you're proud of is that we found spots in the season to respond to these kind of bad moments. Coming up from Dallas and from the Baltimore game, coming from some of those other losses where we lost guys, and just the way that we responded through the year, makes you proud. It shows our character and the men in this locker room, how much it means to them. This is unfortunate because really, I thought the way that we played, we deserved a chance to win that game. This one hurts."

You had guys go out hurt and then come back in. It felt like this was a total commitment.

"Yeah, like I said, I think this was a heavyweight fight. They're a dangerous football team, and we went toe-to-toe with them at their place in a game that meant a lot to them and a lot to us. I think that this was just one of those 12-round fights that they found a way to win it at the end."

For you personally, with this team having found a way to back-to-back division titles and then have this season go the way that it did, how disappointing is it to go like this in the third year?

"I mean, it's tough. It's the reality of the NFL, especially when you're playing in a division as good as this. As good as this division is right now, it's one of those things that we talked about as a team. Really, football is much different from every other sport. You really get one shot 16 times. It's not a sport where you get multiple series with teams and then series in the playoffs. In that three hour window, whether you're the better team or not, it really doesn't matter if you win, it's if you played the

best in that three hour window. You don't get a shot to really play them again except in your division. For us, we've had too many moments in that little window. We didn't play to the level of football that we have to play. If you look at the tape and watch the games where we're playing at our high level, when we're at our best, no one will beat us. Unfortunately, in the season, we just didn't find a way to put our best on the field often, or as often as we'd like to do. It's just one of those things where it's frustrating. But you know what? People are made of the right stuff. This gives them the resolve going forward to do something about it. I have no question that this locker room and this staff, this football team, and really everyone in this organization will have a response."