

# Los Angeles Rams Media Conference

Saturday, August 14, 2021  
Los Angeles, California, USA

## Coach Brandon Staley

Postgame Press Conference



Chargers - 13, Rams - 6

**Q. Josh Palmer, how did you like him? What did you think of his production in the first half out there?**

COACH STALEY: He played out there tonight exactly how he's practiced for us since he got here in the springtime. He's had an outstanding camp. All of our quarterbacks really trust him. We can move him throughout the formation, and I think that that gives us a lot of flexibility in how we want to play. As you saw tonight he can really separate and catch the contested catches. Plays really physically. And we're lucky to have him.

**Q. Looked like he got injured momentarily (indiscernible) on his head?**

COACH STALEY: Yes, his contact popped out. Had to get his contact situated.

**Q. 21-play drive to start the game. What did you like from the offense in that first drive?**

COACH STALEY: I really liked our operation. I liked getting in and out of the huddle. I liked getting in and out of personnel groupings. Thought we executed well. I thought Joe had a lot of pace in the calls, which allowed our guys to get up to the line of scrimmage and operate and identify the defense and go play the play.

I felt like just our offensive line in that first drive I felt like we were coming off the football. Felt like our backs and receivers were working hard. And I felt like Chase was making good decisions. That's a big winning edge when you can possess the ball like that in a game. But the thing is we've got to finish it with a touchdown. And that's the takeaways. That's a long drive, and a lot of that is positive. But we have to score touchdowns in order to be the best people we face.

**Q. How much of an emphasis has that pace and tempo offensively been for you? And (inaudible) how much**

**of an emphasis on tempo have you put with that offense?**

COACH STALEY: There's a lot of ways to define tempo. You're spot on. You can create tempo with literally how fast you play. And you can create it by going in and out of personnel groupings, which can apply a lot of pressure on the defense -- okay, who is in this game.

Wanted to make that a big emphasis for this preseason, making sure our operation, we have a good, clean operation. And sometimes that can be challenging with how many people you're working with. But I was pleased offensively with how we played them.

**Q. Was (indiscernible) part of that long first drive? How much --**

COACH STALEY: Seemed like his wind was good. Felt like he certainly could have gone more than that. We felt like a 20-play drive, that's probably double or triple the amount we had for him. At least double the amount. And we felt like hey, that was a really positive drive. Got to see a lot of him. He was able to get that wind that we were hoping to gain today. And I'm glad that he wanted to go back out there. Because that means he's in good shape.

**Q. The other day you mentioned, (indiscernible) would play or not, part of the thing you said was that guys were competing for a job. Was that the case with Drue and Kyzir and with the two (indiscernible), Kyler and Uchenna?**

COACH STALEY: We kind of consider them co-starters, all four of those guys. We're very fortunate that way. And what we wanted to do -- in Drue's case specifically is, hey, miss an entire year, make sure he gets out there. We wanted to see those two guys play together. Because the big thing at linebacker, that's an attrition position. We wanted to see that kind of combination play together.

I felt like those guys did a really good job in the first quarter directing traffic for our team, playing with good energy. I felt it was good for them to get out there as a combination. So felt that was positive.



The same thing with Kyler and Uchenna. We felt like those guys playing in combination with one another would be something that could be good for the evaluation process. And then both those two guys, they're different. And just kind of seeing exactly what their role is going to be for us. So I felt like that was a positive that all four of those guys got to play together tonight.

**Q. You said before during the week that if a player wasn't playing today it was because either you had already evaluated him or if they were a veteran. Was there a reason why Jerry Tillery didn't suit up today?**

COACH STALEY: Yes, great question. A lot of it had to do with the Rams and how many players they were sitting today. I think they sat like 35 players. And so we just wanted to make sure that guys like Jerry and Justin, guys we think are outstanding players in the league, that they were playing against the right people. And we just feel those guys are really valuable pieces for us. And we wanted them out there against the people. So we helped those two out. And the same with Oday and Matt Feiler, the same circumstance with those guys.

**Q. Couple injuries. We noticed Justin Jackson looked like he was getting his leg looked at?**

COACH STALEY: Yes, I think he's got a groin. Still to be determined. But wanted to be careful with him. Thought he found something and kind of shut him down. He had a good start to the football game, and I liked what I saw. We just shut him down.

**Q. And the same with Cole Mazza?**

COACH STALEY: We're still evaluating him. He's got a shoulder that we're taking a look.

**Q. (Inaudible) running back Bradwell and (inaudible). What did you think of their performance tonight?**

COACH STALEY: I felt like we were able to get those guys a lot of looks in the run game, which was important to us. I think you saw the value of the two backs later in the game. I thought Derius had an incredible hit on special teams, which I was fired up about. And equally as exciting as their offensive contribution is where they are on special teams as well. We're proud of all three guys, they're competing hard for us and position.

To see us be able to run the ball physicality at the end was exciting for us. And Larry and Derius --

**Q. The fourth down, was that something in your own**

**end was just practicing situations for preseason games?**

COACH STALEY: That was a green go for us, that was a practice, but go for us all the way. We felt it was the right amount, and then we felt like we had the right play call and then just felt like timing of the game get that first down, what it would do for us. Expect points after that. It felt like it would be a good situation to do it. And good practice like you said.

**Q. Green go, probability numbers?**

COACH STALEY: We have a really good team of teams up top with Dan Shamash and (indiscernible) Christian (phonetic). And we've got Joe and (indiscernible) up top in the box, myself and Derius downstairs. We're in communication throughout the drives, throughout the series. And felt like that was the time to go do it.

**Q. How did you feel being first game basis coaching, how did you feel coaching and at the same time calling the defensive plays?**

COACH STALEY: Smooth operation. I really did. I've got such a great defensive staff that knows us so well, knows me so well.

Once our series is over, hey, Nati and I talk right away and Nati reruns the series with the staff. If I can have a moment to go talk to the defense, I certainly will. I did it several times tonight.

But I had Renaldo help as defensive coordinator such a winning edge for me. First-time head coach, and being able to keep me where I need to be, which is my eyes on the field for all sides of the kicking game. Felt it was a good operation with myself, Joe, Derius, Nati, and I hope we get a lot better as we go.

**Q. Seemed like tonight more of your depth was tested than the starters, how do you feel about that moving forward on the defensive side of the football?**

COACH STALEY: I really like the fourth quarter. It's important for us to be able to see everybody on the field today. I felt like in the fourth quarter we got to be able to see those guys that are competing so hard that have been practicing really well for us. And I felt that was what was exciting about the fourth quarter was seeing those guys really play their tails off and really play to our standard and being able to finish out the game on both sides of the ball; but defensively I was very proud of the way we played down there, red, give, takeaway, big counter for us.

**Q. How did you feel about the special teams operations overall. Obviously some big teams on coverage, but any communication with the --**

COACH STALEY: I was really excited about kick-off coverage, punt coverage. They have the two returner system that we're aware of. At times we had a gunner fall which led to a distortion in the coverage.

And then the other one, obviously they got called back because they brought this in the back. But we had too many guys on the field. It's a tough job in special teams, guys, and then preseason being in and out. It's a really tough job. Really tough.

And we had shut down Chris Rumph at halftime for special teams but he was going to play the second half on defense. Chris ended up staying out there, kind of misinterpreted what we told him, which was our fault, my fault.

And we've got to take ownership because their offense went back out on the field there. But overall I think that our punt coverage unit needs to be better, especially seeing a different return system with two guys back there. I thought Ty was exceptional punting the football. I thought our protection units were good, but we have to do much better from a coverage standpoint.

**Q. (Indiscernible) kicked off. (Indiscernible) two kickers kicking. Would you rather not have a punter kick off, trying to --**

COACH STALEY: That's our preference. We prefer to keep Ty at punter. And let Mike and Tristan duke it out. And we wanted to make sure that evaluation is expressed fully. They have got shots kicking the ball off. That's a big part of it. So we're right at the beginning and we'll see what the next three weeks bring.

**Q. With Justin Jones and Jerry Tillery (indiscernible), all last night you got to see (indiscernible). What did you think of those guys (indiscernible)?**

COACH STALEY: I thought our inside guys -- Giff Smith does such a great job with those guys. Those guys you mentioned specifically, I thought played physically in the run game. I have so much respect for that team and how they run the football. They're one of the premier run teams in the NFL.

And I felt that Forrest, Breiden, those guys, Joe Graziano, I thought those guys were physical. That was our goal tonight, to be a line of scrimmage scheme, kind of establish our way of playing. I felt specifically inside, we could play

better on the edge, but on the inside those guys really played at a high level.

**Q. And Trey Pipkens and Storm Norton got quite a bit of playing time. You talk highly about them. What did you see out of them?**

COACH STALEY: I saw a lot of good things. And I saw some things we definitely need to correct a couple of times. The protection. And so it all ties together, quarterback, timing, receivers.

As you guys know in the passing game there are many components to pressure. But I thought those guys handled themselves well. We had a false start, which we want to eliminate that, don't want to be pre-snap penalty operation. But those guys are doing well for us.

And then they have to continue to take their game to another level. We'll play against a good front this week in San Francisco. And we'll be tested.

**Q. Talk about (indiscernible) and his performance.**

COACH STALEY: I think he got out there. Got his feet underneath him. I think earlier in the game he was careful. And later as it went on he got more aggressive -- our first group played well tonight. Our execution can and must be better. But our guys played really hard tonight. They played really hard. They were really physical. I thought we tackled pretty well tonight. I think it showed itself, proud of that. Normally in the first preseason game, how are you going to tackle? Punched a couple of balls out. Got unlucky a little bit. We had a couple balls we had to take away down in the low red which was exciting.

I thought our guys played physically tonight. Really happy with how they tackle. Normally how you tackle is a form of how much space is in the down. And we did a good job as a team playing and shrinking, not getting on too many people's islands and able to play 3-on-1, 2-on-1 tackles.

**Q. Coach, did Sean McVay say anything to you after you shook hands?**

A. It's so brief. There's so much to say but so little time. But congratulations, and it was really great to see him and all the guys tonight. And I've got a lot of respect for that team. And it was good for our first test to be against a team like that.

**Q. Last week about John Brannon, came up with that interception tonight. You mentioned he was just getting comfortable in the game. And not criticizing, looked like you read it and what did you see --**

COACH STALEY: Daniel's tricky. In that time and distance, the quarterback really comes alive in the down because you know it's do or die. So unfortunately we gave up an escape length to the quarterback. You've got to get reconnected and scramble drill, which is a big thing down there. We talk about it all the time. The best quarterbacks really come alive down there with their legs.

He was able to get reconnected and kind of cut the route off there and just be there in time to save us. Really excited for him, because he's been working so hard. And he's got so far to go. But his heart, his spirit is right, and we're going to keep coaching him.

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