



**Rams K Samuel Sloman – Media Availability – September 5, 2020**

**(On the kicking competition)**

"It's just one of those things, my mindset every day was control what I can control. It's up to me to perform at my highest ability and make kicks. It really didn't matter what was going on, I just approached it every single day, controlling what I can control making as many kicks as possible, just performing the way I know I can."

**(On his reaction when he learned he won the job)**

"I was pretty happy. I was excited, but I was also a little bit relieved. I'm really excited just to be able to prepare for next week and focus on doing my job next Sunday. I think we're able to make that shift to get a little bit better rhythm with (LS) Jake (McQuaide) and (P) Johnny (Hekker).

**(On if he prefers to be called Sam or Samuel)**

"I've gone by Samuel my whole life."

**(On if he made a push to win the job the last week of practice)**

"Well, I was definitely really, really happy with my last week. I was hitting the ball really, really well. I thought throughout most of the camp, I was pretty consistent. I was hitting the ball really well. I was really happy overall with camp through the ups and downs and yeah. I think I was really, really happy with that last week, for sure."

**(On how the team let him know he was the kicker)**

"Well, I came in here, I got COVID tested, which I figured was a good sign. On my off days, I go watch film with (Special Teams Coordinator) Coach (John) Bonamego. I went into his office and he congratulated me. So, when he congratulated me, I knew. I told my parents; they were pretty excited."

**(On if he found out on Friday)**

"Yes sir."

**(On if there were nicknames given from his time hanging out with the offensive linemen in college)**

"I definitely did. I hung out a couple of the O-linemen. A couple of them were my best friends. I'd always wrestle around with them and we'd always go eat, probably a little too much food together. They definitely had a couple of nicknames. I think one of them started to make its way around. Johnny heard about it. It's called the 'Kosher Cannon'. That's definitely a fan favorite back in school."

**(On if it was normal for a kicker to hang out with the biggest guys on the team)**

"I don't think so. It just was one of those things. My whole class, when we came in together, we're really, really close. It doesn't matter what position, we're really good about not sticking with a single position. So, we were all really friendly and it's just one of those things. It was fun. We got along pretty well and just kind of hit it off like that."

**(On if he had any added pressure considering his young age)**

"Yes and no. I knew that they had a lot of confidence in me when they drafted me. My confidence is really high. I hit the ball really, really well last fall, was hitting it well to the spring and summer and I'm happy with

my performance in camp. So, I didn't really feel like there was as much a prove, as it was just keep doing what I'm doing and don't take my foot off the gas pedal."

**(On what made him be a kicker)**

"I played soccer growing up. I grew up in Georgia, everybody loves football back there. A lot of people, a bunch of my friends and a lot of people at school were like, 'Hey, you should kick. You'll regret it if you don't.' I talked to my parents about it and they really agreed and definitely the head coach back in high school really tried to get me to do it. I just fell in love with it. I fell in love with being on a football team. I love the team dynamic and it just worked out for me."

**(On if he will go back to SoFi Stadium to prepare the kicking game ahead of Dallas)**

"I think the experience in the scrimmages where enough. It was good to definitely get those reps in a different environment rather than a practice field. We had a lot of reps throughout camp and I just think it's all about keeping them as clean as possible and nothing really changes compared to on the field as to practice."

**(On if there is any depth perception difference when considering no fans will be in attendance)**

"No, sir, not really. I always have an aiming spot I pick out use and that doesn't really change based on where I'm at."

**(On being able to handle pressure late in games)**

"I think something that helped me a lot in college that helped with that was talking about being comfortable, being uncomfortable. We kind of took that mindset and the idea of making practice harder than a game. So, when you have tougher attempts and maybe it's windy, maybe you go out on a windier day and try different kicks, things like that. I think that really helps your ability to when you get to the game, everything is just much easier and able to flow a lot smoother."

**(On not having fans in the stadium and the emotions and the toughest place he kicked in college)**

"Well, the toughest place in college was probably either Iowa, because they're really close to the field, or Army or Marshall just because Army, the students are right behind you. They're kind of heckling you the whole time and Marshall, they got some wild fans there. So, those were probably the three craziest for me. Then just being in the NFL is awesome. I'm so, so thankful for the opportunity and I'm really excited to get to play another football game. It's all new to me, so it's not going to be weird me not having fans at the games. I played plenty of games in college with not many people there. I think it will be just pretty normal."

**(On the approach competing against two other kickers)**

"Just like I said earlier, I really focused on myself because I knew if I was at my best or if I was performing well, there'd be no problems and we can just continue going as is. It was fun, but like I said, it was just, I was always competing against myself because I know, when I compete against myself, I usually compete better."

**(On any advice given by P Johnny Hekker during camp)**

"It's awesome. As you all know, he's been around for a long time. He's about as good as they come. So, he was really good. Just to have somebody there, not only to help me with field goals obviously, but also mentally just, you know, always giving me little reminders, telling you you're going to have your good days, you're going to have your bad days, how to bounce back from that. Really how to approach every practice, every situation like a professional and you're always ready for everything coming your way."