



## LOS ANGELES RAMS

### Rams Outside Linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. – Media Availability – January 16, 2019

#### **(On putting all the different pieces to the Rams defense together)**

"For us to really start getting on the same page, feeling each other out, knowing each other's game and how we play off each other has been pretty good. Finally coming together towards the end of the season the last four or five games, we did really, really well, especially with (CB) Aqib (Talib) coming back. That was a really big difference with our defense just being more elite and taking it to that next level. Also, (Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Wade) Phillips going over the explosives and finding a way to cut those down and we did a really good job of that the last five games to finish the season. We're just gaining a lot of confidence and we're in the playoffs and a lot of guys have been in this situation, Aqib, (CB) Marcus (Peters), myself. That camaraderie that we have with each other, we spend a lot of off the field time with each other as well, buying in and getting to know each so I think that's helped as well."

#### **(On how much of an impact DT Ndamukong Suh had against Dallas and how much does it feel like a different group when he plays that way)**

"His presence was felt a lot that game. He was a man amongst boys that game. I had watched the film over and he was just dominate the whole game. I think that was the most dominant game he's played and he's had a lot of dominant games. He's a big, key piece to the defense, especially in that front seven, being in those trenches. Being in the NFC and going up against a lot of high-powered offensive linemen, good offensive linemen and for him to be able to hold his own and hold it down in the middle for us and help out linebackers make a lot of plays, (LB) Cory (Littleton) and (LB) Mark (Barron) have been making a lot of plays and that's because of Ndamukong. We need that piece and he's just very valuable for us."

#### **(On what he's telling the guys about playing on the championship stage)**

"We have a lot of guys that have a lot of experience, so I honestly I think they know already. (WR) Brandin Cooks, me, there's a lot of other guys that's been in these situations. They've been in the playoffs last year and lost in the first round but you could just tell this is what this team has been fighting for since training camp started, to get into this situation. Now that we're here, everybody is trying to take advantage of it. We're working very hard in practice so we can be ready to execute on Sunday."

#### **(On how much more comfortable he feels since the first game against the Saints)**

"That was my first game. I feel so much more comfortable just knowing the plays and being able to go out there and play fast and do what I have to do. That was a big game coming in. I think all the games have been really big since I came here, especially that game, it got me ready for this moment. There were a lot of key plays that could have changed the game around that game. I know that it's going to be a very physical game going against a very great, smart quarterback that knows how to operate really well. I just got to my best to get to him and obstruct him and get him off his foot and make him throw some crazy balls because when he has the time, he's very efficient."