



2026 NFL Melbourne Game News Conferences: 49ers vs. Rams
September 10 (U.S), September 11 (AUS), 2026
Melbourne Cricket Ground
49ers 27, Rams 7

San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan

KYLE SHANAHAN: Sorry, guys. All right, the injuries from the game, Stribling left. He had an ankle; didn't return. Jake Tonges a knee; didn't return. Trent Williams and McCaffrey left with cramps, but they came back.

Go ahead.

Q. Re: Stribling

They checked his Achilles. They said that was intact, but they're not exactly sure of the magnitude of the ankle injury.

Q. Is it a high ankle?

They're not sure.

Q. 100,021 people attending the game today. What was your thought when you walked out into that field?

It was cool. They came earlier than American fans do. It seemed pretty packed and full in pre-game warmups. We usually tailgate longer. So that was cool. The stadium was cool, how high it was. It felt gladiator-ish.

The difference for us is just how big your guys' footy fields are. So, they all felt pretty far away from us, which was different, but an awesome experience for us.

Q. Was it noticeable, the crowd being away from the field?

You just don't hear them as much when they're that far away, but it was a lot of red out there and they were yelling all game, so they seemed pretty good, too.

Q. Re: win being satisfying

We have had a lot of really good wins together. This was a special experience just thinking about the offseason, the unknowns and stuff, a place none of us have ever been before.

It was a great week. Took us a couple of days to get our mind right, but our hotel, the city, the whole organization, with bringing everything, the cooks, felt like home once we got here. Glad the guys went out and played like that too.

Q. Have you analyzed now winning the game, what day it is now?

I always knew what day it was. I was trying to show how confusing it was comparing it to people at home. We're one ahead. Now I'm ready to go back into the future. I think it's Thursday at home and it's Friday here. My son plays on Friday, so somehow I'm going to land over a day later and still be able to make his game on Friday. It's pretty cool.

Q. Re: How the strategy worked

I mean, the game worked. Win or lose, I know everybody was going to make a big deal about that for either team. You never know how much that factors into it. You just try to do the best to prepare for three and a half hours. I liked how we prepared but more importantly I liked how we played.

Q. Re: Injured players returning

It felt awesome having those guys back. George not as long. He just missed the one playoff game, but I know it's huge for those guys just from a mental standpoint, getting over that hump, getting out playing again.

Their impact you could feel throughout the game. It was cool getting Greenlaw and Deebo back, too.

Q. Re: Difference between first and second half

We just don't see much difference of play in the first half as the second half. We thought we were ahead of them. We missed a couple of opportunities there in the second quarter. We had a chance to lap them right at the end of the first half. Missed a third down and started right with the ball.

We just wanted to go out and keep trying to -- we said all week we just want to be the team that wants it more. That's how we tried to approach it the whole week. I felt it on the first play, felt it to the last play. It was a huge job on special teams opening up that third quarter with a big kick return. It kind of got us started and to go in and get that touchdown. The defense played so well. I think the 99-yard drive, though, was the biggest momentum change of the game.

Q. Re: Mike Evans

I love playing calls for Mike. Mike's been great here. Today was my first day doing it, but you saw what he did on third down. I know our first two third downs went to him moving the chains. I think he hit a big second and long that got us to overcome and avoid third down and it was nice to have a type of receiver to throw a fade to him like that. That was cool.

Q. What's the plan to balance Christian and Kaelon today?

I thought they both ran really hard and really well. I'll see on the plane exactly how good it was, but it felt like it out there. That was the goal for us coming into this, trying to balance it out more, whether it was with Kaelon or getting Deebo some carries.

Christian went out a little bit with cramps but he didn't miss much, came back quick, and they all helped today.

Q. Would you like to come back to Melbourne?

I would. It was cool. I would like to come back when I'm not working, though. It seemed awesome. Seemed like a cool place. But it's tough when you're working the whole time.

Q. Would you want to come back to play?

(Laughter) I like 17 home games in San Francisco. Nothing against Australia, just don't like to travel.

Q. Towards the end of the third quarter, you had a massive fourth down stop. Do you feel like that changed the momentum of the game?

Yeah, I think it was right after our 99-yard drive and they were answering. Went all the way down the field. Seemed like they were going to score and it was going to be a battle. For us to stop them on fourth and goal inside the one, that was huge.

Q. Re: Offense

They did an unbelievable job. You got to mix it up. You got to get rid of the ball quick, which I thought Brock did a great job of. The receivers getting open.

But we had to hold on to it a number of times too. None more bigger than the long ball to D-Rob. That was huge. I think we took a seven-step drop. The safety doubled Mike, took about three steps to see it which I would never expect to. A hell of a job, the tight end staying on it, Brock with the coverage and D-Rob.

Q. Re: Myles Garrett

Not really, you can't really balance it out. We had to cheat the ends the same way and it didn't change any of the game plan.

Q. Re: Atmosphere

Yeah, in terms of seeing the red. It was like both the games that we play versus the Rams at home in California. It was a little different with the cheering and stuff. I think they got to get a little used to how we do it. The coolest part was hearing the crowd sing the songs throughout the game. That stuck out. And I wish we did that more in the U.S.

Q. Can you speak to how the public adopted the NFL?

On my bus ride to the practice field and coming out of my hotel, it seems like fans were real excited about it. We always had people there. We had people cheering when we would drive by.

The fact that the stadium is packed during warmups, that doesn't happen very much. People seemed ready to go.

I have a few relatives, friends down here and stuff and they have been talking about it for a while. Hopefully we gave them a good show.

Q. Re: Brock Purdy

I think Brock played so well. He had one play I know he wants to take back. The 99-yard drive there were so many plays there he had to take off schedule and would move the chain with his legs. I think he found I want to say Deebo on one, that was a big off schedule across the field -- no, for the touchdown. Brock was unbelievable today.

Q. Re: Renardo Green

Renardo? He had such a good training camp phase one and OTAs, he was one of the guys I was most excited about this year just in terms of taking such a big step from the year before and he had that hamstring which set him back and he wasn't able to go until this week.

He was working all week to get up and for him to be healthy enough to play it through that game, make it through the game without getting an injury and to play at the level he did I thought was huge.

Q. Mike Evans, we have seen similar things in practice from Mike. Is that something that you saw them working on?

Yeah, we've watched Mike do that for his whole career. Just never been on the team with him. He did that to us a ton when I was in Atlanta. Mike is as good as any receiver who has played down there. Haven't

got to work on it as much as we would like in training camp. It was something we wanted them doing in Tennessee working together. They were working on the side a little bit this week. I said I wanted to give them more opportunities to get better at it, but they didn't need it today. Looked pretty good at it.

Q. Re: Field surface

No. Once we get out there on the grass, I mean, the grass was great. The field seemed great. We were worried early when we came because it was so early and it was just wetter. Thought it was going to be real slippery, but it dried off. Thought it was great field, great playing conditions, and once you get in those white lines it's all ball. Nothing is different.

Q. Re: Fred Warner

Fred? I think I'm hearing the question right, but Fred means to me. How he is on the field. I don't think Fred has ever had a bad day in his life. He's one of the most impressive people I have been around. He just passed Pat Willis today for the most tackles in the history of our franchise and has a lot more ahead of him, too. Fred's the man.

Q. (No microphone.)

That's a business decision. I love the -- the NFL is awesome. The whole world should know about it. I get why we want to spread it around and go places. I was hoping to get a bye week after it. We don't. Got a few extra days, though, so I think we'll be able to recover from it. I think you know I'm excited at first. That's because you only think about your team.

After going through this all knowing we were coming down here and getting over that, it's been an awesome experience. Loved getting the win today and it's time to enjoy this flight and get back and get ready for Week 2.

Q. Re: Travel

I don't know. That's the just the way we did it so I don't know another way. Guys, we go to the east coast, we usually go stay at a place for about a week every year when we go play on the east coast so this was really the same thing for us. It was a much longer flight. 16 hours compared to five and the time change was a lot different but once we got here, this is the stuff we're used to.

We do a week at the Greenbriar probably three times since I've been here, at the Air Force Academy before we go to Mexico City. We do that stuff a lot. Once we got here and got used to playing, we kind of like being on the road and being in a hotel. Helps you lock in and do your job.

Q. Re: injure player

It wasn't good. It's not an ACL, it's an MCL, I believe, but there are some issues with it we got to see how it is. There's a little more information to it, but we don't know yet. All right, thank you, guys.



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**San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Mike Evans, quarterback Brock Purdy and
linebacker Dre Greenlaw**

Q. Is that intentional on your part?

DRE GREENLAW: No doubt, I know he's coming. That's exactly what the mindset was. Yeah, it is. We're just trying to play football. Playing fast. I mean, I know he's coming so he's just playing football.

Q. How did it feel out there today?

DRE GREENLAW: Yeah, it definitely felt amazing. Especially, second half I felt confident, felt like I knew what I was doing. Yeah, just got better and better as the game went on. But felt amazing out there.

Q. Do you feel like you had the right strategy?

MIKE EVANS: No, it was definitely worth it coming a little bit early. I felt like we got acclimated. DP and Kyle did a great job of getting us there early and all the guys, we attacked it. We didn't complain. We actually enjoyed being out here in Melbourne.

Q. How has that been? What was the reaction?

MIKE EVANS: Oh, Brock threw a great ball. We got the coverage we wanted and we repped that a lot the last couple of weeks. I was happy that paid off and we were able to keep scoring after that.

Q. Congratulations with the game today. How did it feel with 100,021 fans out there?

BROCK PURDY: It was awesome. I thought the energy that the Australians have out here were really cool. They're passionate about sports. We have heard that from a lot of people, but being out there, looking around, I was like, this is pretty cool, man. It's pretty special. They were into it the whole time and they had their different chants and stuff with songs.

They had fun with it. So, for us to be able to come here to an amazing country and amazing spot, win, and be able to enjoy Melbourne and the week that we were here with all the people, it was a great experience overall, so shout out Melbourne and Australia.

Q. Re: Australia

BROCK PURDY: Yeah. I mean, I think at the right time of the year and everything. It was nice that this was the first game of the year for us coming off of camp and come ought here a week early and being able to play and stuff.

Obviously once we're in season and going through the grind of it, travel becomes a thing. But our overall experience here is amazing and we would love to be able to come back and play here in front of the people here in Australia.

Q. Re: Travel

MIKE EVANS: When did they get out here? (Laughter) When did they get out here? Seriously? Oh, dang. You have to give your body time to adjust. When the game is scheduled, I have to be ready to play, but maybe a few days earlier would have been ideal we don't care if they came a week or two weeks earlier, we came out here and did that.

Q. Re: NFL culture in Australia.)

MIKE EVANS: Great. We went out in the streets, seen a lot of niners fans, a lot of people in NFL jerseys. People recognizing us in Australia was crazy. Great atmosphere.

DRE GREENLAW: Yeah, no doubt. I think Australia, the time that we had, people coming up to us and how excited they were for the game and how excited they were to see us 49ers, it made it feel dang near like a home game for us. We were definitely excited to play and show ya'll what American football is all about.

MIKE EVANS: Was this the first game in Australia?

Q. Yeah.

MIKE EVANS: That's awesome.

Q. (No microphone.)

BROCK PURDY: Yeah, I would say that for sure. Coming out here and just like these guys said. The flight attendants were great. I was like is that just because they're flying us out here? Once we got here we were able to check out the city a little bit and walk around.

Everyone here is so generous and welcoming. I think the fact that we were here a week earlier, obviously heard about it. I think when we jogged out there and stuff, we definitely felt the love from all the Australians pulling for us and stuff.

I think it was cool that we came out here and we got a good group of dudes and a great organization to come out and represent the 49ers but the NFL and stuff. Hopefully we got a lot of Niner fans out there now that are living here in Australia.

Q. (Regarding physical slowness from them.)

DRE GREENLAW: Hold on, mate. What did you say?

Q. Did you detect any slowness or stiffness from the Rams considering their travel was so different than your own?

DRE GREENLAW: I don't know about them. We were just focused on us. We knew what we had to do, we know the standard that we play with. Regardless if they was -- you know, if they wanted to come in day before, week before, it didn't matter at all.

We got a standard that we play with. For us, it wasn't even about how they were going to come out, it was about how we were going to come out.

Q. ...drive, what was going through your mind?

BROCK PURDY: Yeah, I think obviously shout out to our defense. That was huge getting us that stop. That was huge. I think that was a turning point for the game with momentum and everything.

First off, getting out of the backup situation was clutch. For Luke Farrell to have that catch and getting us out of there. And then after that, I think Kyle was doing a great job of dialing up the right play calls and obviously not -- being aware of when we want to take a shot and go deep and stuff, but the defense was giving us our one and twos in the progression, so just trying to take that.

And obviously when it wasn't there, I think that was the time of the game where I started using my legs a little bit and the guys did a great job on the scramble drill, obviously hitting Deebo late.

But like I said, man, that all started with the defense and getting a stop and for us to create the momentum that we needed to finish out that game.



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San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey, tight end George Kittle and wide receiver Deebo Samuel Sr.

Q. How does it feel first win in Australia?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Feels great, man. Thought everybody came to play. Did a great job managing the week and an exciting win.

Q. To have Deebo back out there with you, what was it like to be reunited with him on the field?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: It was awesome, man. Deebo has that presence when he's on the field, he's such a game breaker, he's a player the defense has to look to in any situation. Super explosive and can do a lot when the ball is in his hands.

Again, when you have so many guys on your team it makes football so fun because you start to get rhythms together and it's a lot of fun.

Q. What did you think of Kaelon Black? Not a lot of rookies in his system have gotten in the backfield in a few years.

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, he did incredible. Oh, he's an awesome back, man. I said this earlier, but he's a force and he's someone who's going to help our team a whole lot. It was really cool to see him go out there and just do what he does.

Q. Christian, did it feel like a home game?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, felt like a home game. Australian fans were incredible. The songs during the game. Hey, man, I was just talking about you. Oh, George, hello. It was great. It was a lot of fun.

Q. Re: Atmosphere in Australia

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, definitely. That was really cool to see how many people supported just the game of football today in this country was special. Listening to the crowd sing the national anthem and all the songs throughout the game, just the energy was extremely high and we really appreciate everybody who showed up.

GEORGE KITTLE: The fact that there was a sellout crowd at 10:30 a.m. on a Friday in Melbourne, just shout out to everybody who called in sick at work today. They chucked a sicky and I was love a shoey. That's a beer out of a boot.

DEEBO SAMUEL SR: Yeah, I don't know what that is.

GEORGE KITTLE: It's a beer. Out of a boot. Once we get behind the -- we'll do it over there.

Q. George, while you're here, you mentioned you didn't score a touchdown today.

GEORGE KITTLE: Yes. Damn it.

Q. Would you be able to give us the celebration?

GEORGE KITTLE: I will say I did do it on the field when Brock threw that first touchdown to DeMarcus Robinson. I walked right up to him and hit him with the bow. Yeah, no, I'm just going to have to add that to my celebration at some point this year and just eat the 15-yard penalty and fine.

Q. In terms of being out here, was it hard to hear the team on the field in the huddle in the crowd or was it -- did you just block it all out?

GEORGE KITTLE: At this point in our careers, I think we're pretty good at blocking out the sound. The crowd was loud when they needed to be loud and they were chill when we were on offense which I appreciated but when Deebo scored, they blew the top off, which is pretty fun to listen to.

Q. Re: Australia

DEEBO SAMUEL SR: I don't know, but I enjoyed Melbourne for sure.

GEORGE KITTLE: Melbourne was sick, but we do go to Mexico City, too. We have two international games.

But I had a great time here. I'm real excited, the fact that we came out early and were here for the whole week, immerse ourselves in Melbourne, we were taken great care of, great hotel, the staff was awesome. We had so much fun drinking coffee and just kind of hanging out for the whole week. It was awesome.

Q. Re: Moments in Melbourne

CHRISTIAN McCaffrey: I didn't hear him.

GEORGE KITTLE: One of mine was I went to a coffee shop and I guess a bunch of players and staff had been there and they were just like, you Americans are just so polite and kind. Yes, sir, yes, ma'am everything, and that made me feel so good, that the culture and character that we have has a team. That stood out to me.

CHRISTIAN McCaffrey: I was getting a haircut today or a few days ago and one of the barbers looked at me and says, looks cracker. (Laughter) I was like, sorry, what did you say? I didn't know what it meant. I guess that means it looks good, but that was funny. Said it again. Dude, I hear that every Sunday. That's awesome. (Laughter).

So that was good. We had a good moment, but I enjoy all the slang.

GEORGE KITTLE: Deebo, what did you like?

DEEBO SAMUEL SR: I just think the people were really nice, really polite. Kind of like a Southern thing out here.

Q. Deebo, how did it feel to be playing?

DEEBO SAMUEL SR: It felt great. From training camp from the day that I got here, you know, they welcomed me with open arms. Like I said earlier when I got here it felt like I never left. I was really only gone for seven months and right back.

GEORGE KITTLE: Seven months too long.

Q. Re: Offense

GEORGE KITTLE: I think what did we rush for? 175?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I don't know.

GEORGE KITTLE: I think we rushed for 175 and I don't think Brock got touched besides like a penalty on him. One, that's a shout out to the offensive line for holding it down. Our coaches and their game plan and our tight ends, full backs, running backs, wide receivers on the chips kept their edges out of it.

Yeah, football is a really hard sport and it doesn't honestly matter who you have lined up, you still have to go out there and execute every single snap and I just thought that our O-line and all the guys who were part of blocking for these two running the ball, I think they did an excellent job.

Q. You said you were concerned getting in football shape for this game.

GEORGE KITTLE: Absolutely.

Q. How did you feel?

GEORGE KITTLE: Not in shape. (Laughter) Not at all. But I think I caught my second wind in the second half, so that'll mean that I get to play more football next week.

Q. Re:

DEEBO SAMUEL SR: He was recruiting at the point, but always support anything that this team and these guys got going on. Knew that him and a bunch of the guys were there so I just pulled up and we had a great time.

GEORGE KITTLE: You had a question in the back? That's great. Does anybody have a shoe? Come on.



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San Francisco 49ers tackle Trent Williams

Q. Can you tell us a bit about how you're feeling with the atmosphere of fans?

TRENT WILLIAMS: Oh, yeah, it was definitely a great experience, one I think I'll probably remember for the rest of my life. Obviously, it's even better when you come out with a win, but we really enjoyed Australia. The atmosphere was incredible, the fans were incredible. Australia's incredible, period.

Q. Re: Traveling early to Australia

TRENT WILLIAMS: Of course. Of course. We know they spent a lot of money to have us out here and to cater to us like they did. We had to pay them back by playing our butts off.

Q. What was said at halftime? It was very tight at the end of the second quarter. What did coach say to you guys to end up to going back out there and put on a performance like you did?

TRENT WILLIAMS: Honestly, it's 0-0. We had some work to do and we kind of could feel ourselves starting to pick our rhythm up and starting to look like how we want to look and we made the plays that counted in the second half.

Q. Just a few minutes ago Myles Garrett said that he's not fully healthy yet. He's still working. Could you tell that you're not getting 100% of Myles Garrett?

TRENT WILLIAMS: No, I couldn't tell. He's still really hard to block, so, no, I mean, he's one of those players where it's just, you know, no matter what he's going through, it's still not an easy out for anybody.

Q. Are you aware no tackles for him, no sacks, obviously. Were you aware of that stat line?

TRENT WILLIAMS: No, I wasn't.

Q. Trent, I know how close you are with Deebo. What kind of joy did you have seeing him out there and the success he had today?

TRENT WILLIAMS: Oh, man, just having him back, having Greenlaw back. We're brothers, man. Love those guys to death. Obviously, everybody knows how close me and Deebo are, so just watching him and knowing what type of player he is and having his impact back in the locker room and his leadership for those young guys, it's clutch.

Q. What was your first impression of Mike Evans?

TRENT WILLIAMS: Hall of Fame Mike, man. He made the plays like he normally does. He's a jump ball extraordinaire and those 50-50 balls are not really 50-50. It's definitely what we expected to see out of Mike, and just pleasure to have him on the team.

Q. When you go on a 99-yard drive, did you feel a click? A certain rhythm?

TRENT WILLIAMS: No, I honestly was fighting cramps the whole entire drive, so I didn't even know we went 99. Well, I ain't gonna say I didn't know. It didn't dawn on me because as soon as he scored, I tried to head to the locker room to get an IV.

But, you know, that's just one of those things that when you're running the ball effectively, you're passing off of it, you can do things like that.

Like I said, this team was finding its groove, the run game started to go forth and the pass game followed. That's what we're capable of.

Q. What have you taken from this whole experience and would you like to come back?

TRENT WILLIAMS: I was love to come back. I don't know -- I just want to come back for vacation just to kind of chill and enjoy the city. It was hard for me to go out and really enjoy Australia knowing I had 95 coming up. I was in the hotel all week trying to study, trying to prepare. I definitely would love to come back without the work, you know? Come back and just enjoy Australia.