

Rams try to rebound by continuing success in Seattle

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Whatever the reason the Los Angeles Rams seem to have solved winning in one of the most difficult venues in the NFL.

Each of the past two times the Rams have traveled to the Northwest they’ve come out of Seattle with a victory. They’ve won three of their past four trips to face the Seahawks. One of those was the most lopsided loss handed to the Seahawks during Pete Carroll’s tenure.

So even though the Rams are coming off a surprising home loss to Tampa Bay last week, they still have that history they’ll be bringing with them when they visit Seattle on Thursday night for a key NFC West matchup.

“I think we are all in the same position of, we’re just excited about another opportunity,” Rams coach Sean McVay said. “We respect the Seahawks a lot, but I know for me personally, I think a lot of the players would agree, the Thursday week is stressful in terms of the amount of work that is condensed in a short week, but it provides a great chance for us to respond from a disappointing Sunday.”

The Seahawks (3-1) know getting back to the top of the NFC West means reversing



Seattle Seahawks running back C.J. Prosise (22) scores a touchdown against the Arizona Cardinals during the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

the trend of the past few years. Los Angeles (3-1) has won six of the past eight overall against Seattle and a win on Thursday would make the Rams the first division opponent to win three straight games in Seattle since the Denver Broncos from 1996-98.

“What happened last year, what happened the previous years before doesn’t really

matter,” Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. “If you don’t bring your game this year, then all of that is erased.”

Even though he tied an NFL record with 45 completions and threw for 517 yards last week, there is worry about how Jared Goff has played. He’s thrown six interceptions in four games. His passer rating is 82.9. Couple Goff’s

inconsistency with concerns about Todd Gurley’s usage — he had a career-low five carries against the Bucs — and issues on the offensive line and the Rams offense has yet to click.

Meanwhile, Seattle has no worries about its quarterback. Russell Wilson is off to one of the best starts of his career. He’s thrown eight touchdowns

and no interceptions. He leads the NFC and is second in the league in passer rating. Seattle’s offense has sputtered at times but it’s not because of Wilson.

“I think I’m playing good. I think there’s some more things out there that you can always try and do,” Wilson said.

Here’s what else to watch

for as the Seahawks and Rams meet for the 43rd time overall.

ON THE LINE

The Rams’ reconfigured offensive line hasn’t been overly impressive after replacing two veteran starters with unheralded second-year pros Brian Allen and Joe Noteboom, but veteran tackles Andrew Whitworth and Rob Havenstein both hurt Los Angeles last week with penalties. The line was a durable strength of McVay’s first two offenses, and its sudden shakiness is a clear factor in the Rams’ slow offensive start. Look for Jadeveon Clowney, Rasheem Green, Quinton Jefferson and the Seahawks’ other pass rushers to test that line.

LEAN ON THE RUN

Seattle led the NFL in rushing last season and two of its best games came against the Rams. Seattle rushed for a season-high 273 yards in the game in Los Angeles. The Seahawks haven’t matched their league-best rushing attack from a year ago, but Chris Carson rushed for 104 yards last week and Rashaad Penny should return after missing the past two games with a hamstring injury. Penny had the only 100-yard game of his career last year against the Rams.

Longtime Cardinals owner William V. Bidwill dies at 88

By **BOB BAUM**
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — He owned one of the oldest franchises in professional football and rarely talked about it.

William V. “Bill” Bidwill would much rather tell stories about growing up in Chicago, his days in the Navy or the great restaurants in St. Louis than about the current state of his Arizona Cardinals, a franchise that struggled for decades before making a stunning run to the Super Bowl after the 2008 season.

Bidwill, who died Wednesday at age 88, was reviled by fans at times for

what they perceived to be his penny-pinching ways. But privately he was an extremely charitable man, distributing money to many local causes, usually done quietly with no publicity. Charitable contributions also were made through the Cardinals Foundation, formed shortly after the franchise moved to Arizona in 1988.

“Our dad passed away today the same way he lived his life: peacefully, with grace, dignity and surrounded by family and loved ones,” Cardinals President Michael Bidwill said in a statement released by the franchise. “We are over-

whelmed by the support our family has received, not only now but throughout the latest chapter of his life.”

Bill Bidwill ignored critics as the team went a half-century without a playoff victory before making it as a wild card team in 1998 and upsetting the Cowboys in Dallas.

The bowtie-wearing Bidwill headed a family operation that dated to 1932, when his father Charles purchased the Chicago Cardinals, reportedly for \$50,000. The younger Bidwill was a ballboy for the 1947 team that won the franchise’s lone NFL championship.

Charles Bidwill did not

live to see his team’s triumph, dying earlier that year. Bill Bidwill’s mother, Violet, ran the franchise after that, moving the Cardinals to St. Louis in 1960.

When his mother died in 1962, Bill and his brother, Charles “Stormy” Bidwill Jr., co-owned the team. Bill Bidwill took over sole ownership in 1972.

After a stadium dispute in St. Louis, Bidwill moved the Cardinals to Arizona with a handshake agreement that a stadium would be built here for the team. The Cardinals toiled for 18 seasons at Arizona State University’s Sun Devil Stadium, often in front

of sparse crowds, before voters finally approved a bond measure that resulted in the construction of a state-of-the-art facility in the suburb of Glendale that opened in 2006 and has since hosted two Super Bowls.

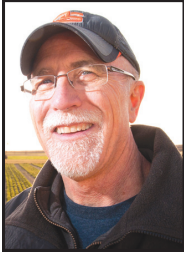
The Cardinals sold out every home game after making University of Phoenix Stadium — now called State Farm Stadium — home.

On Wednesday, condolences poured in from across the country, including everyone from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey to former Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner.

“Although never one to seek the spotlight, Bill had an incredible sense of humor and he made extraordinary contributions to the NFL,” Goodell said in a statement. “Bill’s vision brought the Cardinals, the NFL and multiple Super Bowls to Arizona.”

“He was a leader in embracing diversity and employed the first African American female executive, and the first African American general manager and head coach tandem. We extend our condolences to Bill’s family and the Cardinals organization, which along with his faith, meant so much to him.”

PIGSKIN PICKERS WEEK 5										
										
Overall:	28-12	27-13	27-13	27-13	26-14	24-16	24-16	22-18	21-19	
Last week:	7-3	8-2	6-4	6-4	7-3	6-4	5-5	6-4	6-4	
Hermiston at Southridge	Hermiston	Hermiston	Hermiston	Southridge	Hermiston	Hermiston	Hermiston	Southridge	Hermiston	Hermiston
Pendleton at Milwaukie	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield	Weston-McEwen	Weston-McEwen	Stanfield	Stanfield	Stanfield	Weston-McEwen	Stanfield	Weston-McEwen	Stanfield	Stanfield
Nyssa at Umatilla	Umatilla	Umatilla	Nyssa	Umatilla	Umatilla	Nyssa	Umatilla	Nyssa	Nyssa	Nyssa
Iowa at Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Iowa	Michigan	Iowa	Michigan	Iowa	Michigan	Michigan
Auburn at Florida	Auburn	Auburn	Florida	Florida	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Florida
Boise State at UNLV	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State
Packers at Cowboys	Packers	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Packers	Cowboys	Cowboys	Packers	Packers	Cowboys
Bills at Titans	Bills	Titans	Titans	Bills	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Bills	Titans
Bears at Raiders	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears



THANK YOU TO LAST WEEK'S GUEST PICKER
PHIL HAMM
(6-4)

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PICKERS!





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