

Earl Thomas sees through Seahawks struggles, amazed by support team receives in Canada

ca.sports.yahoo.com/blogs/eh-game/earl-thomas-sees-through-seahawks-struggles--amazed-by-support-team-receives-in-canada

By Israel Fehr

10/22/2014



From his position of free safety, Earl Thomas is uniquely qualified to assess the early season struggles of the Seattle Seahawks. The defending Super Bowl champions dropped to 3-3 after a surprising 28-26 loss to the St. Louis Rams over the weekend and after back-to-back seasons as the NFL's No. 1 scoring defence, the Seahawks are allowing an average of 23.5 points per game through six games, which ranks 19th in the league.

Often stationed as the last man back on the field, Thomas has the best view of what opposing offences are doing differently against his defence this season.

"They're staying away from our strengths. They're trying to attack different spots on the field that they know that we struggle with and it's always off of some play-action or something that we haven't seen before or a trick play," said Thomas in a phone interview Tuesday. "The close games that we won last year we're not winning them so far. That's what we have to get back to .

"You get back to the game plan, you see those mistakes and you fix those mistakes. It's the weekly grind, the classroom aspect of the game. We're going to make it hard for anybody that we play because we play the game so hard and we love it."

Thomas and his Legion of Boom cohorts Richard Sherman and Kam Chancellor along with offensive stars Russell Wilson and Marshawn Lynch are committed to getting the team back on track, and they've earned the benefit of the doubt. Thomas credits Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll for fostering an environment in Seattle that allows his

players to develop a personality on and off the field. It's what has made the Seahawks successful the last couple years and even though they've hit a rough patch of late, the group's confidence remains high.

"I think it starts with who we are off the field," said Thomas. "The way we communicate with each other, the way we talk, and the way we understand the big picture. That's what separates us."

Since Thomas joined the Seahawks as a first-round pick in 2010, the franchise has never been better and their popularity has soared, [especially in](#) Western Canada. The Seahawks made sure to [include](#) British Columbia as part of their Super Bowl celebrations this summer.

"Our Canadian fanbase is great. I think it's about 10% of our fanbase and [it's] a blessing for us just to have that support," said Thomas. "It's amazing to be part of an organization that's reaching out and impacting different parts of the world."

In an effort to recognize the Canadian fans, Thomas has teamed up with Duracell and will take part in Xbox's Game With Fame program, Canadians will have the opportunity to take on Thomas in a game of Madden 25 on Tuesday, October 28.

"It's going to be fun," said Thomas. "I'm looking forward to it. I'm always up for the challenge."

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