



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Las Vegas Raiders Head Coach Rich Bisaccia

Opening Statement: "I can't tell you how excited we are for Raider Nation. To play in this venue with a crowd like that. It looked like a black out to us, it was extremely exciting. As far as the game goes, we made some plays and we missed some plays. We had some drives, and we gave up some drives. We had some touchdowns, they had some touchdowns. It was really incredible. Two good quarterbacks out there playing an unbelievable division game, to come down to the end like that. We have a team that cares about each other. A team that knows what to do. A team that competes with a relentless effort down in and down in and down in. We just find a way to have a chance to win at the end. We put Daniel [Carlson] back out there. It was a good job by the offense getting down there. The defense comes up with a stop. We have a chance to win there at the end and we won it."

Q: How much pride do you have in your team's refusal to quit?

Coach Bisaccia: "Our entire coaching staff has a great deal of pride for our team and the way in which they compete. That is what we try to preach every day. We try to find a way to get a little bit better, try to improve when the day is over. If we get ourselves in an overtime game again certainly somewhere in there, we improved a bit and found an opportunity to win it. Credit goes to them."

Q: Do you think having all of the overtime and walk-off finish wins helped you during this game?

Coach Bisaccia: "I would like to think so. We have been in this situation before right. Derek [Carr] has been in two-minute situations before. He has been in four-minute situations before. Our defense has had to come up with stops towards the end of the game. We just can't say enough about how this team prepares and going into the game playing like that. I just know that they believe in each other when they go out there. They don't blink. They gave up plays, a touchdown at the end. We didn't get the drive that we wanted. They don't blink. They reset, recover quickly and the next unit goes back out there."

Q: Was there any consideration to just running the clock down at the end to preserve the tie?

Coach Bisaccia: "Yes. There was conversations about it. We were talking about it. I don't know if you know that we ran the ball there and they didn't call a timeout. So, I think that they were probably thinking the same thing. Then we had the big run through there and when we got the big run and we got into what we thought was advantageous field goal position for us, we were going to take the field goal to win it. We certainly talked about it on the sidelines and wanted to see if they were going to call a timeout on that run, they didn't. We thought they were thinking the same thing and we popped a run in there and we just tried to kick the field goal to win it. We certainly talked about it."

Q: After the Kansas City game a lot of us thought the season was over for you guys. Were you guys thinking one game at a time at that point?

Coach Bisaccia: "We have always preached one game at a time, one day at a time, and one play at a time. The Kansas City game we turned the ball over five times in the game. We tried to look in the game as what did we do poorly. What did we do that got us a little improvement somewhere in there? What was our effort like at the end of the game being down like that? We evaluated it and moved on like we have the other ones. So again, I think we talk about wins, if you stay in the win too long you end up putting yourself in a bad position. If you stay in a loss too long. They are both impossible. We learned a lot from that game about ourselves, but we also learned a lot about ourselves in the overtime wins that we have had here lately as well."

Q: You guys got big plays out of Jalen Ricard and Clelin Ferrell. What does it say about those two guys and your depth in general?

Coach Bisaccia: "We have all learned throughout the course of this year, with what has been going on in the National Football League is whoever is dressed on game day has to be prepared to play. We go through practice with the mentality of practice like you are going to play in the game. If you play in the game the expectation is that



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you should play well. If you don't dress and play you are a great teammate on the sideline. I think that is what you saw from all of those guys today."

Q: What do you think about the parity of the AFC and the league this year?

Coach Bisaccia: "Just look at the quarterbacks in our division, right. Look at the quarterbacks that we have to go against in Kansas City and who we just played today with the Chargers. We are prepared for and we would love to win the game early and not have to worry about it, but we are just prepared to play until the bitter end and hopefully put ourselves in a position to win."

Q: What does it say about Josh Jacobs character to come out and play that hard and not be 100 percent healthy?

Coach Bisaccia: "I think that he was probably as healthy as he has been in a little bit of time. We took care of him during the course of the week in practice. I feel like we have been getting better each week at running the football. There is a certain trust factor in there between Josh and the offensive line. A lot of credit to those guys covering guys up and moving the football for us when we need to run the ball."

Q: At what point would you have decided to just play for the tie and not kick the field goal?

Coach Bisaccia: "We had conversation about it towards the end there but if you remember. We ran the ball early, they didn't call a time out. So, we thought probably that they were doing the same thing. We thought that if we can have a run in there that could possibly get us in field goal position to win it, we were going to do that and that is what we did."

Q: Would you have punted if you didn't get that big run?

Coach Bisaccia: "I don't know. It didn't happen."

Raiders Quarterback Derek Carr

Q: What does it mean to you to make the playoffs?

Carr: "It's very nice. Honestly, all I'm thinking about is I'm excited. I'm thinking about the next team we got to play, and then everything hurts. Once I think I can get some sleep and wake up in the morning, maybe it'll hit me then, but I just have this weird feeling in my heart like the job is not done. Like my favorite player Kobe said, 'Job is not done.' It does feel good, it's exciting, but I don't set out to just make the playoffs, although it's been since 2016 and I didn't even get to play. It feels cool. It's awesome, but you know our goals. This is one of them, but there is more after that, too. We're excited, and we got to play a team that already beat us. It's going to be tough."

Q: What does it mean to you to overcome the challenges from this season?

Carr: "I was talking to Mr. Davis in the locker room. One of the things we were talking about is like I don't think any team has been through what we've been through in 10 years, let alone one year. So much emotion. Pick a story, you know? So much with everything that we've done. My brother said it best 'This team was forged in the fire,' and I kind of like that. We went through some stuff, some refining, some hard times, but we locked the doors every day on Monday, and the people that were inside that building didn't stop believing in this. It showed today. We made it to the playoffs. It's awesome, it's probably the coolest accomplishment I think I've ever had in my life, football wise. To see where we were at, everything we went through, and to still make it, no record, nothing. This was the coolest thing to see. This team come together and be able to still decide that this is what we wanted to do, it's a cool feeling, that's for sure."

Q: Immediately after the game, how would you describe that moment?

Carr: "Aw man, well one my hat came off and I was like, instantly someone is going to make a meme of my hair with some Home Alone guy or Wolverine. This was AJ Cole's fault. This is honestly just because he said I'll give up. I think this is a perfect segue into we didn't give up this season. Just because he told me I'd quit is the only reason my hair hasn't been cut since training camp. If that tells you a little bit about me and how I feel about today, we



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didn't quit. Lord knows there's been many of times I've gone home after talking to you all, and your human emotions are just like 'why do I even do this', and you instantly remind yourself of the reasons why you do it. So, to accomplish something no one thought...If you said you thought we were going to do this, I'm going to kick you. No one thought that, but the people in the building did and we acted like it and the fact that we did it, the emotions, the feeling. I don't know my heart was just kind of, I was excited, pumped up and all of that. But I kind of just, I don't know, I guess it was just more on my mind. And it shows you that even the worldly things you can accomplish don't fulfill your heart. I've been waiting for eight years to make the playoffs. I made it to 2016, but I didn't get to play, and I made it this year and anyone chasing worldly things, trust me I've waiting and praying for things. I want to make the playoffs. I want to try. And I made it and it didn't fulfill me. So, I don't know what you want to do with that but it's the truth. About how I felt afterwards, I heard Deion Sanders won the Super Bowl one time and he said he felt more alone, more empty. The worldly things are fun, and I'm thankful to be apart of it and to be able to say I made the playoffs and all of that again. But it doesn't do anything for my heart, that gave me hope or anything like that. It was just a cool accomplishment."

Q: Talk about the personable pride you feel going to battle with those men.

Carr: "Again, this is a special, special group. It really is. I kept saying it, and then we'd lose five out of six and everyone was like 'Yeah OK Derek. Good job with being optimistic again.' I don't know, it was just different. I don't know if there were videos, or I don't know what gets out there on social media and stuff. But to watch our guys celebrate and watch everyone go out. I always tell you guys when we win a game, my favorite thing to do is to sit in my locker and just watch everybody. And it was pretty entertaining tonight. But to see the joy, just to see how Coach Bisaccia lead us this year, our coaching staff staying together. People had new roles and all those kinds of things. Hopefully I'd be a Disney movie someday, and I get to play Coach Bisaccia. But that probably be my goal next."

Q: What was the text about you and Aaron Rodgers about?

Derek Carr: "I talk to him all the time. I usually don't even say that, but he's always been someone since I got in the NFL that has helped me with questions and things like that. He's always been good to me. We were talking today, and I won't get in what we got into, but definitely part of it was like I just want to send these guys home. He's always encouraging and I'm thankful for that relationship. Like I said, he's always been good to me, but I don't want to get into anything he said."

Q: What's going through your mind when they scored and it goes to overtime compared to similar games in the past?

Derek Carr: "You know what? I'm almost numb to the rollercoaster. I had someone come up to me, Nate Peterman, he came up to me and is like 'Dude, my freaking stomach during that.' This fifteen-point lead, then it's gone, then we go score, then they score, and it's unbelievable. Of course, it's what's on the line. I don't know, there is something in my heart that maybe I've seen too many hard times, I've seen some good times here, and I just kind of stay like that. I'm thankful for that cause I'm not going to lie, I told myself that I wasn't going to watch those games this morning, and that is the most stressful thing I've ever done is watching those games. I'm wrong for that, I shouldn't watch those. When I'm in it, it's just like this, it's like this is my job. It's either going to workout or it's not, but I'm going to give it my best every time. You can tell I'm definitely thankful that it worked out this time."

Q: How did you feel about home field advantage tonight?

Carr: "This one blew it out of the water. It felt like a playoff game. All the guys that have been in the playoffs said this exactly what it feels like and all those things. It was really good to see not very many light blue powder jerseys in the stands. There was some and I give them credit. Our fans did a good job of representing and being loud. I saw one time when they were holding that thing up, the decibels, it was getting up to. That's a pretty cool feeling. This was a fun one to win, especially to do it at home, it's special, and it's nice cause my house is close, and I can get some sleep tonight."



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Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley

Q: Why did you take a timeout with 38 seconds left?

Coach Staley: "Yeah, we needed to get in the right grouping. We felt like they were going to run the ball, so we wanted to get our best 11 personnel run defense in. Make that substitution so that, you know, we could get a play where we would deepen the field goal."

Q: Did you think the timeout changed the Raiders gameplan?

Coach Staley: "I don't think it changed their mindset because they were going to run the ball on the play before, and then ran the ball on the very next play. So we wanted to make sure we got our run defense in there. We obviously didn't execute there, but we wanted to get our premium run back defense in there and that's what we did."

Q: Was there any motivation with the timeout to save time so if they would've missed the field goal?

Coach Staley: "My mindset was to make the field goal as long as possible."

Q: What was your assessment of the defense?

Coach Staley: "I thought our defense played really, really well. The penalties were obviously a big factor in the game. The end of the half was a huge momentum swing in the game with the third-and-22. We got split on the draw. We have got to go tackle that guy. We got to make a play. We're in a shell defense and they should knock that down, and we didn't knock it down. Then we had them in a good position and then he throws a pass really far out to the end zone. Then we get called for a [pass interference]. So that dramatically changed the momentum. We had it 14-10. We were playing really well. We did an outstanding job with the run in the first half. We felt like we put a roof over the coverage. You know, outside of the first third down where we had corner turn Foster Moreau loose in man-to-man, I thought our guys played their tails off. Then in the second half, I really felt we gave ourselves a chance. I thought we defended really well in there, tight. And overtime, outside of the one run which two guys missed the tackle at the point of the tackle and went for 28, we hung tough and forced a field goal. And then we got it to a third down and eight, and they completed that out cut on Davontae [Harris], but we were contested and that's where the ball had to go and they made it. We just got to do a better job tackling at the point of the tackle against Josh [Jacobs] on a couple of those runs at the end, and you know we just didn't finish those plays on that last drive on defense. Other than that, I felt we played really well."

Q: Why did you up Kenneth Murray Jr.'s snaps in the most crucial game of the season?

Coach Staley: "Yeah, we just felt like those three guys were all going to play in the game. We had different roles for them going into this game. Drue [Tranquill] coming off of his injury, you know, we just wanted to make sure all three of those guys were going to rotate and play in the game and thought all three of them played well."

Q: What was your thought process going for it on fourth down in the third quarter?

Coach Staley: "Yeah, I just felt like it was going to be a drive starter for us. You know generate some steam for our offense. I felt like would get it. I felt like we had a good play call with the duo run, and they just knifed in there and made a good play. But I was really looking to get our offense started. Get our engine started and, you know, they just made a play, and we didn't."

Q: With talking about so much trust in Just Herbert, why not put the ball in his hand on the fourth-and-1?

Staley: "Yeah, I mean, I understand the criticism. We felt like we could get the run. We felt like the personnel grouping that they had out there, they weren't goal line defense. We felt like we had plenty good enough, you know, play call for that. They took away the advantage look and it just didn't go down for us tonight. We got a great stop on defense. You know, forced them to kick three. And, you know, we went right back out there and had a chance. It was a one possession game. So, I understand that decision be question, but in my mindset, you know, that's a yard that we can get."



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Q: With the rollercoaster of a season, what is the level of frustration right now amongst the team?

Coach Staley: "I am disappointed because I feel like we are one of the best teams in the NFL. This team is not only good enough to be in the tournament, but to win it. I know who is in the tournament, and I felt like we have a good enough team to be in it. It was a fight this season. It was a fight, and we just couldn't create enough separation. We had to have this game, and we just couldn't quite finish it out. We laid it on the line. Tonight was a great example of the way that we played all season, the belief that we have in one another, the belief in this place and how we do things and we set a big time foundation for the future. I hate it for this team that we are not in the tournament. I feel like we are good enough, but it didn't go down for us tonight."

Q: The last two drives in regulation and in overtime, what does that say about your quarterback?

Coach Staley: "Yes that is why I hate that we are not in the tournament because he is one of the best players in the NFL. I hate that he is not in the tournament competing against the best players in the NFL. I hate it for him. I hate it for Derwin [James], Keenan [Allen], Cory Linsley, a lot of these guys who has given us so much, but this is just the beginning for us. We are going to have a tremendous offseason together. We are going to learn from this. We are going to grow from this and come back in a really big way together. Justin was fantastic tonight he gave us a chance and as you guys know, he is really special."

Q: Why go with Kenneth in those third down situations over Kyzir White?

Coach Staley: "He gives us a really good rush and he is a really good man to man cover guy. That what we were going to do in this game. We were going to play a lot of man-to-man, and he is our best man to man coverage guy, and we felt like that would be a role for him I this game. That would be a lift for us, and we had Kyzir playing like he normally does and everything else. It was something that we felt like in dime because we planned on playing that grouping a lot that it would help us if we pressured, which we didn't end up doing but he is also our best man to man coverage guy. We felt like that was going to be a good role for him tonight and it didn't have an impact on what happened whatsoever."

Q: Do you feel like the defense got wore out at the end of the game?

Coach Staley: "No we were not. Our offense possessed the ball pretty much the whole fourth quarter, and we had plenty of juice in overtime. We missed a couple of tackles. We didn't set the edge and we didn't finish enough plays there in overtime where we had guys in position. We just didn't make enough plays tonight. Especially on that last drive, but on the opening drive as well in the run game. We just didn't finish plays tonight in overtime and that was the sword for us tonight on defense."

Chargers QB Justin Herbert

Q: Two drives in the fourth quarter, what was on your mind?

Herbert: "Yeah, I thought we executed well on fourth down, especially in those two drives, but that wasn't enough and that's the unfortunate part. We we're too far behind and offensively we didn't get enough going in the first half. So ,it's on our offense, and it's obviously very tough."

Q: Did you know you'd go to Mike Williams on that touchdown play?

Herbert: "That was one of those plays that we kind of talked about, all week of this is what we're trying to get hopefully and that's the coverage we ended up getting. Mike ran a great route, came back to me and you know, kind of defeated the leverage of the quarterback on that one. He ran a really good route on that one."

Q: The touchdown to Josh Palmer, what'd you see on that?

Herbert: "Yeah, held my eyes to left and Josh went up and made a big-time play. He's the second read in the progression, and I'm really thankful he was there. He ran a really crisp route and made a really big play on it."



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Q: The rollercoaster of a season starting off so hot then kind of going, then trying to catch your breath to make the playoffs. How frustrating is it tonight after a loss and not able to make it the playoffs?

Herbert: "Yeah, it's really tough, you know. The whole goal is to get to the playoffs and to eventually win Super Bowl and it didn't go our way tonight. That's the unfortunate part. I'm really proud of the way everyone's battled this year, and we never gave up. It's an honor to be apart of this team and apart of that locker room because everyone cares a lot and they left everything on the field tonight. It didn't go our way. We gave it our best effort, and that's the tough part."

Q: What did they do to slow you guys down early?

Herbert: "We just didn't execute. We got behind the chains, we had some penalties a couple turnovers, and you can't expect to win football games like that."

Q: What were you thinking on the sidelines when the Raiders driving and it's a tie game? Have you ever been rooting for a tie before?

Herbert: "I've never been rooting for a tie more in my life. That's the unfortunate part of being so close. That beat us so close. We didn't execute as well as we could have, that's the tough part, but it's all about how we respond to this. Going to have an important offseason for us and have to bounce back."

Q: Fourth-and-1, you guys got stopped on the handoff, the play call were you happy with that?

Herbert: "Yeah, we believe in those guys upfront, and it's tough when you don't convert. Whenever you give the ball off to Austin Ekeler, good things usually happen and it's unfortunate we got stopped there, but I'd do it over again just like that. I'd give the ball off to Eck, and I'd let him go make something happen. You know, hindsight is 20/20. We could always look back and say we could have ran something else, but we're going to stick with guys upfront because they've battled all year long. We believe in those guys."

Q: The protection it seemed like you were under duress especially late in the game, how difficult was it back there to operate with all that pressure?

Herbert: "You know they got some really good edge rushers and that's the tough part. I thought our guys up front battled, and I had plenty of time to get the ball off. They may have got back there a couple of times to get some pressure, but you know we made plays. Just hats to them for those edge rushers."

Q: You had 64 passes the most this game, how does your shoulder feel?

Herbert: "It feels good."