



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

Opening Statement: "Good to see everybody. I'll be happy to answer questions I can. It's nice to have some sunshine here in Alameda."

Q: What are some of the positives and negative you can take out of Day 1?

Coach Gruden: "Well, a lot of situations obviously. Today, we had a two-minute drill. The quarterback, [Derek] Carr, is very impressive today again. He's showing very good command of the offense. I think the first team offense is doing some very good things running and passing. I like where our defense is going. I was pleased, really, with the guys at the top of the depth chart. I thought [Eddy] Pineiro kicked the ball very well. Both of our rookie specialist punted the ball extremely well. Some of our backup players have to pick it up. I think that's probably a standard line around the league this time of year."

Q: How have you seen Gareon Conley's confidence grow during this offseason?

Coach Gruden: "It's grown tremendously. I give our secondary coach, Coach [Derrick] Ansley a lot of credit. He's spent a lot of time behind the scenes with Conley. It's been a dark world that he's been in, this young man. He's had a terrible injury he had to rehab from, he's had to change coaches, learn a new system and it's been a slow and steady process. But man is he a good player. When he's feeling good, you can see why we picked him No. 1 overall."

Q: Do you expect Khalil Mack to show up this week and do you have any concern now that workouts are mandatory that he is missing?

Coach Gruden: "I don't know. I just hope so. One of the big reasons I came here was to coach that man. But I don't want to speculate. There's a lot of guys in the league, several players that are in a similar situation. We're just trying to resolve it as soon as possible and in the meantime coach the players that are here."

Q: The team has the ability to fine a player for any unexcused absence for mandatory workouts. Will Mack be fined?

Coach Gruden: "*(laughter)* I just move on with the questions. I'm not going to get into what we're going to do. That's our business, honestly, and we'll deal with it accordingly. We're hoping to get the man signed and I'll leave it at that."

Q: What do you see in Ahtyba Rubin and Frostee Rucker and why did you bring them in?

Coach Gruden: "Well, Rucker is a guy that has been a very good, physical football player at multiple positions for a long time. He has a history with [defensive coordinator] coach [Paul] Guenther, that's obvious. But, he started a lot of games for Arizona last season. His versatility and leadership is outstanding. When you have Arden Key and you have [Maurice] Hurst and you have P.J. Hall, it helps when you have a veteran presence in every room. Rucker will help us do that. I really like this guy. Ahtyba Rubin is another mammoth nose tackle. We needed depth there. [Eddie] Vanderdoes is not practicing, don't know when he will practice. Mario Edwards [Jr.] has had some injuries and hasn't practiced a lot, so Rubin gives us another big guy that can work inside and keep our linebackers clean and be a contender to help our team."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: Did you see the progress that you wanted to see from the start of OTAs until now?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I have. I'm really happy. We have a lot to prove yet. We're a long way off, but we laid a very good foundation. We've added a lot of new players. We felt like we needed to do that. This roster needed help and we went out and helped ourselves I think. A lot of these players came, I think, with very little signing bonus. They came, some of them I think would play for nothing, and that's the attitude that we need here. We need competition, we need depth, we need leadership, we need players – hard, tough, football players. I think that's what the Oakland Raiders franchise is built around and I think we have made progress. We have laid a foundation and now it's up to us to continue to stack days together, get some momentum and go to training camp and get ready for the regular season."

Q: Are these three days during minicamp in any way like a dry-run for training camp? Is this a different setup than the OTAs were?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, a little bit. I mean, this way we practice nowadays is tough. You're not allowed to have any contact, you're not allowed to play bump and run, you're not allowed to be on the ground. You have to be very careful; it's hard to do. It's hard to do when you're trying to make a football team. It's hard for Marshawn Lynch to play his kind of game in this style of football, Doug Martin same thing, [Kelechi] Osemele. We're trying to teach our pass-protection, our system of offense, our entry of blitz on defense, but you don't want the collisions. So, most of this is timing and assignments, timing and assignments and trying to bring men together where they can get familiar with one another."

Q: What's your take when you see a scuffle out there?

Gruden: "We haven't had that, we really have stressed the etiquette that you have to be an Oakland Raider. We have to work against each other. We have to practice against each other every day. I didn't like what happened today, particularly in the situation. You hear all this situational football talk around the league. We're in the 2-minute drill to win the game, and we got a guy ejected for fighting. That's a 1-yard penalty and Eddy Pineiro ended their day with a game-ending field goal. I'd hate to fly back from London or wherever the hell we have to play, Miami or all these road trips we've got, losing a game like that. Sorry for getting unglued."

Q: Do you find the sense that it's not going fast enough for you?

Gruden: "No, it's the same for everybody. You have to adapt. We've practiced in shorts when I coached before. This isn't my first rodeo. I'm just saying, at the end of the offseason program, guys are tired of it. They're ready to get ready for training camp and play some real football. It's tough. We tell the defense don't bat balls down. We tell the offense not to be too aggressive and chop block in pass protection. There's a lot of rules of etiquette that we have to keep talking about and it's tough. The players get tired of it."

Q: How did practicing with the Lions come about?

Gruden: "I like Matt Patricia a lot. I have a lot of respect for him. I've spent time with him, obviously when I was in my previous role. He's a heck of a guy. He's a great coach. I trust him. I think he trusts how we want to get better and improve as a football team on both ends. There will be specific situations, a lot of it will be controlled. They'll give us an opportunity to see a different opponent. They'll give us an opportunity to see a different style of offense and defense. Young players will get a chance to hopefully gain some confidence by playing against somebody else before they really have to under the lights."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: In the position battle between Pineiro and Giorgio Tavecchio, how much can be determined in practice and how much of it will have to wait until game-like atmospheres?

Gruden: "It'll be a battle into camp. Tavecchio has had a heck of a camp. It just so happens that it was Eddy's turn to kick today. We're not going one kick here, one kick there, taking turns and rotating. It's Tavecchio's day. It's Pineiro's day. It allows these guys to mentally go out there and be better instead of rotating. It's going to be a battle. The young kid can kick the ball and Tavecchio has proven he's an NFL kicker."

Q: You mentioned Kelechi Osemele earlier. He came here two years ago and basically changed the entire aggressiveness of the offensive line with his presence. What's been your observation of him?

Gruden: "I like him a lot, obviously. Those three guys inside are a pleasure to be around. Can't say enough about the physicality of Osemele. He's rare that way. The guy in the pivot is a sensational player. Rodney Hudson makes us go. He's the straw that stirs the drink. He's a great athlete. He's smart. He doesn't miss a snap. He doesn't miss a call. Gabe Jackson is the most underrated guard. For him not to be in a Pro Bowl, there really should be an investigation, honestly. We've got three really good players in there. It's important that these young tackles, whoever it's going to be, Donald Penn, whoever it's going to be at left tackle and right tackle, we've got to catch up to them. If we do, we've got a chance."

Q: Kolton Miller and Arden Key seem to be swapping some pretty good reps against each other. What have you seen from that matchup?

Gruden: "We like them both. We like Kolton Miller a lot. What we're doing with him right now with all the audibles, all the check-with-me's, the different speeds we're playing with, it's taxing on a young guy. He's an underclassman out of UCLA and hasn't really been in a huddle very often. He is a great athlete. He's done a hell of a job for us. Arden Key has got some special pass-rush ability. We expect those guys to make each other better as we move forward. We like both those players."

Q: Are there any injuries to report?

Gruden: "[Marcus] Gilchrist had a slight calf strain so we held him out. He's been, arguably, our best safety in camp. He's extremely versatile, can play nickel, can play free, can play strong. He's a Bisaccia guy on special teams. That was more of a precautionary matter. I think Gareon [Conley] is OK. We don't really have any injuries of significance to report to you today."

Q: Obi Melifonwu is doing more since the last time we talked.

Coach Gruden: "Obi is doing more. Yeah, he is. He's out there more. He's out there more. He's getting close to being all the way back. He and Conley both have had some dark, quiet moments with the trainer. I think his confidence is growing. I saw him pull the trigger and really get off the hash and move the other day. You see the 4.4 speed that is talked about. He has a lot of ground to make up. He's missed a lot of work. It's competitive back there. The guy that's really been stunning for us is Erik Harris. I'm doing my research on this guy. Who is this cat? This guy has played really good football for us. I don't care what round they are coming from. This kid is really rising to the top right now."

Q: What has stood out about Derrick Johnson so far?

Coach Gruden: "Well, his presence stands out. He has a feel to the defense. In the walk-throughs and during stretch, the confidence. I think the bar raises when you get a guy of that status in this league. Quick study. Learned the defense. He recognizes formations. He can cover. I still think he has some



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

thump in that body. I give him a lot of credit. The man got married last weekend. He gets married and flies back for an OTA the next day. Now, if you don't like that, you don't like football. His dedication to the game is spectacular. He's what we need. He's what we need. We need a presence in the middle of our defense. It's been a turnstile, the linebacker position here for a long time. Hopefully, he can help develop [Nicholas] Morrow and Marquel Lee. Two young guys I think could benefit from watching him."

Q: What has Tom Cable brought you guys as the offensive line coach, especially having to develop two young guys?

Coach Gruden: "He brings us, not only experience – the championship experience, head coaching experience. A lot of versatility. He's coached in a lot of different schemes, different runners, different quarterbacks, different head coaches. He's versatile. He can adapt. He's a tough guy. Usually the tough coaches, they help develop tough lines. The thing I love about Cable is he's a great teacher. You can go down and sit in an offensive line meeting for 30 minutes and he can coach about three days' worth of information. He's always ready. He's sharp, but he's a really good teacher. He's into it every day. He's a tough guy. We like him."

Q: What have you seen for Maurice Hurst, P.J. Hall and Arden Key?

Coach Gruden: "Well, it's just the same thing as Paul [Guenther] said, you can tell in shorts. I mean it really favors the defense in some ways because every play is a pass. We don't have a lot of running plays. We ran it more today than we did in the last three practices combined. The offense is always retreating upfront. You can tell guys that can cover grass, that have some pass rush arsenal. They have the speed to get the edge. They have some power to run over you. They're quick studies and they're in great shape. What I am really impressed with is the conditioning of our young draft choices. They haven't missed a second and we have worked the hell out of these guys. We've pushed them hard. I like that a lot. They all seem to like football. A lot of young guys today, they're not quite sure how much they like OTAs and long eight-hour days. They're used to the NCAA where it's a little bit different. There's a lot to like so far."

Q: What have you see from Karl Joseph so far? He's had issues when he's isolated on large tight ends.

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, well it's tough. He's going to have to be isolated on them again in certain coverages against certain formations. That might happen again. He's showing up around the ball. He's touching off. We chart how many times each defender gets to the ball. I would say Karl leads our team in getting to the ball. His effort has been outstanding. He's still learning this defense. Fortunately for him he can sit in a meeting with Leon Hall, Reggie Nelson, guys that have had a lot of history with Guenther. I think as that improves, he'll improve. We're not going to change genetics. There's going to be times where he's in a tough matchup. That's just the way it's going to be."

Q: Who else on the offensive side of the ball has stood out to you?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, we've had a number of guys. Jordy Nelson has been really good behind the scenes. Playing multiple positions. Jared Cook has had a great camp. I did not know Jared Cook moved like that. I knew he had really good pass receiving skills, but we can line him up at a lot of different places now. He's been really sharp. We've asked him to do a lot. The running backs have probably stood out the most as one position group. Doug Martin, Marshawn Lynch, Jalen Richard can play, DeAndré [Washington] can play. This young Chris Warren kid from Texas is a good player. I like Keith Smith. That has been a real good group. Polished. Haven't made a lot of mistakes and they practice hard."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: How would you evaluate the guys you have behind Derek Carr?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I was disappointed in not really giving Christian [Hackenberg] the opportunity to go to camp. Like I said, we felt we needed to add a couple of defensive linemen. We ran out of numbers. That's not good at that position heading into camp. It's hard to get one guy ready right now, let alone two or three, but Connor Cook's game is moving up. He's doing better. He still, I think, has some rough edges that he can improve. EJ Manuel is an athletic guy. He's made some strides. Right now, it's Derek Carr and it's wide open after that."

CB GAREON CONLEY

Q: How are you feeling physically and where do you feel like you're at?

Conley: "I feel like I'm back. I got a long time to recover and just working with my teammates to get my mental back right. That's really what I'm trying to do."

Q: How difficult was the process last year having to sit out because of injuries?

Conley: "It was really difficult, because I've never been hurt. It was like the first time that I've really been hurt and where I've missed time. Like I said, mentally, that's just the hardest thing. But, I feel like I've gotten my confidence back and I feel good."

Q: Do you came back this year feeling like this is your rookie year or did you learn a lot last year even when you couldn't play?

Conley: "I mean, I feel like it's still my rookie year because I didn't play a lot, but I learned a lot mentally. I feel like it's my second year mentally and just knowing the game and all the logistics, but physically I feel like it's my rookie year again because I didn't play a lot."

Q: Knowing that the coaching staff expects you to be the No. 1 guy, is that difficult to lead a group when you had the year off due to injury last season?

Conley: "It's going to be challenging. I don't feel like it's going to be that difficult though. I feel like I can lead by example more than just vocally."

Q: Due to the way people in the NFL treats injuries, a lot of information isn't released regarding injuries. Can you clear up exactly what happened with last year? It seemed like you would be back in a couple weeks and then it just never turned out that way.

Conley: "Yeah, it just lingered. We thought it would get better by taking reps off, but it just kept getting worse, so I just fixed it."

Q: Did you have to have surgery?

Conley: "Yeah, I had surgery."

Q: What has it been like getting used to a bunch of new guys?

Conley: "It's just like college when you get a new set of guys. You get a new room when people leave. So, I feel like I can always cope with people. When you got people that understand and have the same goals, or similar goals, that's just kind of easy to cope with it."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: What have you learned about the people in your life over the last year of adversity?

Conley: "Honestly, I feel like what I learned is that there are people there for you, but at the end of the day you have to be there for yourself because you're the only one that can mentally prepare yourself to come back from something."

Q: Did you feel like you were completely ready to come back after training camp and that you were yourself or did you still not feel right?

Conley: "No, I didn't feel right. I feel like that played a part in the lingering injury too because mentally I wasn't there all of the way."

Q: The New York Jets game seemed like a pretty strong game for you. You didn't feel like you were taking off?

Conley: "No, I mean I feel like I played alright but I feel like I could have played way better. Watching film, I had a couple good plays but I had a lot of bad plays too."

Q: How does this defense suit you?

Conley: "I feel like it suits me well. We play press a lot just like I did in college. That's basically the defense for the corners to play press-man and lock your man down."

Q: What has been your whole observation of the vibe of the new coaching staff?

Conley: "They're all in and there's no blaming and complaining. We handle ours and take responsibility for everything. We hold everybody accountable to the highest standard."

Q: After seeing a team go 6-10 after the year the club had in 2016, did you learn anything from that?

Conley: "Yeah, definitely. It just seemed like the whole thing was set up, like it wasn't how we are now. People weren't all together as one, everybody were kind of in their own lane. I feel like we're all in one lane right now."

Q: At Ohio State, you didn't lose many games. To be on a team that was losing games, was that a portion of the hard part last season as well?

Conley: "Yeah. You go from a winning program and then you see the difference, you see why it happened and you know why it happened because you were on a winning team. So, you know what it takes to win and why you lost."

Q: Is there any specific reason for changing from No. 22 to No. 21?

Conley: "[Rashaan] Melvin asked for 22. *(laughter)* Twenty-one was my high school number though."

Q: Did the shin injury happen at minicamp last year or was it OTAs? When did that first happen?

Conley: "It was around that same time."

Q: Who took you through the times of possible doubt during the injury period?

Conley: "I just talked to multiple people. Like Karl [Joseph], he said he got hurt his rookie year and then I actually talked to my teammate in college, Marshon [Lattimore], because he had a lot of hamstringing



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

problems. I just talked to people I knew who got hurt and asked them what they did to come back from it."

Q: Do you look at this year as a year to prove people wrong with a chip on your shoulder or are you just worried about yourself?

Conley: "I'm not worried about it – of course I take it into account – like I have a chip on my shoulder but I don't really try to prove people wrong though. I'm worried about myself and getting back mentally."

Q: What are your first impressions of the new veterans?

Conley: "They bring a lot to it; they're all in. Like, we all are on the same page and when you're on the same page, you can talk to people. We talk about football on and off the field like regular conversation. When you're always talking about things to get better, you always have that teammate to talk to about anything, personal and on the football level, it just elevates your game."

Q: What does it do for you to play across from a guy like Rashaan Melvin?

Conley: "It just challenges you, it makes you compete harder and just trying to be the best. That's going to make your game better."

S KARL JOSEPH

Q: Gareon Conley said you helped him out quite a bit, coming in with a similar situation injury-wise during your rookie year. What did you say to him?

Joseph: "I just know how hard it is coming in as a high draft pick, first round. We battled through some injuries and I told him to keep his head up, keep fighting through it. There is a lot of pressure from outside sources and pressure you put on yourself coming in being drafted high. So just keep battling through it, and when you're ready you're going to be ready."

Q: Who approached who in that situation?

Joseph: "I think it wasn't so much who approached who, it was just noticing that he was coming in as a young guy that I was in the same position the year before. We chopped it up a few times and I knew that he was a guy that I needed to take under my wing. I'm still young myself, but the knowledge I gained from my first year battling through the same thing, I could pass on."

Q: What's it like not having Khalil Mack here?

Joseph: "You can't replace Khalil. We know what he's doing and we respect it but I think the other guys have done a good job stepping up and learning the system, like everyone else has been. When he's ready to come back, we'll be ready for him. You can't replace a guy like that."

Q: Coach Gruden said you were one of the guys he consulted before signing Daryl Worley. What are you getting in him?

Joseph: "I knew he could come in and help us at that position. We need some help in that position so when he asked me about him I was excited. That's my brother. We played almost all of our years in college together. So when he asked me, I co-signed for him immediately. He's a heck of a player."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: What do you think about the defensive scheme from Coach Guenther?

Joseph: "I'm excited, man. It's a fun defense to play in. The thing I love about it is that he knows it like the back of his hand. He coaches very well. It's aggressive, a lot of different moving parts. It allows us to make plays. Play fast, make plays and attack from different positions."

Q: Coach Gruden said they track who is closest to the ball every day. He said you've been the most of anybody being around the ball.

Joseph: "I'm learning every day. Having guys like Reggie [Nelson] and more veteran guys than we've had previously has helped me. Guys like Emmanuel [Lamur] and Tahir [Whitehead], those guys, having veteran linebackers that know that defense has helped a lot. I'm still learning. It's also something he told me, he emphasized before OTAs. He said 'I need you to get to the ball' so that's something I take pride in."

Q: Was it Coach Guenther or Coach Gruden who said that?

Joseph: "Guenther."

Q: What's it like having the veteran presence of Derrick Johnson?

Joseph: "I think it allows us to play with confidence, knowing that we have three middle linebackers that are veteran guys, that have been around the league for a little while, they know that defense. That trickles down to the rest of us, especially in the back end. We have confidence that they can make the checks and make the calls. It allows us to play more and not have to make checks."

Q: Has Gruden been different or as you expected on a day-to-day basis?

Joseph: "Expected. I love him, man. He brings a lot of energy every day. He's a straightforward guy. He tells you what he expects from you. There's nothing to hide. It's fun, man. I'm excited the way he's brought the team together. I'm sure you guys can tell. I notice it: the team chemistry. I think that's something he takes pride in."

Q: How has it been working with Marcus Gilchrist?

Joseph: "He's versatile, he's smart. He plays the nickel, he plays safety. Having a guy like that in the back end also adds a lot of competition and depth to the position and I think it helps everybody. It helps us compete. It brings the best out of everybody."

Q: Can you talk about Derrick Ansley?

Joseph: "He's a great coach, man. He's hard on us. He's very detail-oriented. He's all about the little details. He and Coach Jim [O'Neil], both. They're some great coaches. That's what we need in that back end. They work very well together, how they bring the secondary together."

Q: You had an interception today in practice. How can that start here in the spring to work towards more turnovers?

Joseph: "I think being around the ball. First of all, learning our responsibilities. That's the first thing. This defense allows you to make plays. There are so many moving gadgets. So many blitzes. It's very aggressive. It allows us to play fast and be around the ball to make plays. I think we have to keep growing. We have a lot of room for improvement but I think we are way ahead of where we were last year around this time. I'm excited to see where we are when we get to camp."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: Things at practice seem to be changed on the fly. How beneficial can that be?

Joseph: "I think it gets us ready. It gets us ready for game-like situations. Not everything being scripted allows us to think on our feet, make calls and communicate. I think it's good for us. It's going to get us ready."

Q: When you look back at your first two years, are you frustrated at all?

Joseph: "It's frustrating to me because I have high expectations for myself. I know there's a lot of plays that I missed that I wish I could get back. Going into my third year, I have very high expectations for myself. I definitely have to elevate my game. I have to be the player they drafted me to be. I put that on myself. I have a lot of expectation for myself this year. I'm holding myself to that. I just have to keep growing and learning from some of the older guys like Reggie, Leon [Hall] and Marcus. I think we're in a good spot right now. I'm excited where we're at right now and where we're headed. We're going to have a really good team."

G KELECHI OSEMELE

Q: How in the spring can you elevate your game and improve the areas you want to focus on?

Osemele: "I think physically, I'm being pushed right now. [Offensive line coach] Tom Cable, he's doing a really good job of straining our brains, as they like to say. With all the new code words and things constantly changing, I think mentally is where my game is going to improve the most."

Q: How's it been so far with the new offense?

Osemele: "It's been great. We have a lot of versatility. Defense can't cheat as much because we change things up with code words and different things like that. I feel pretty good with the way things are going."

Q: What have been your impressions of the two rookie tackles?

Osemele: "I'm really impressed. Phenomenal. Actually today, Brandon [Parker] stood up for himself. That was really cool to see. You always want to see that, you worry about a guy's toughness. He's a tough kid. He's been playing well. He's really intelligent. Really smart. Kolton [Miller] as well is very intelligent. Very minimal ME's [mental errors]. Also, tough. I've been kind of trying to toughen them up a little bit in drills. He's pretty solid. I think we have something here. We have some guys."

Q: What makes Cable such a good teacher?

Osemele: "He's a good teacher. He's good at knowing different people, like their personalities and kind of how to get to them. Does a guy have a big ego? How can mess with them a little bit and then get him to pay attention to what I'm saying. You know what I mean? He just understands people. He's been doing it for so long. He understands people's personalities and their psychology and whatever. He gets under there, he gets underneath that. He also cares about your development off the field as well. You respect a guy like that. So, when you have a guy like that teaching you, that's only going to help your growth and development on and off the field."

Q: Does the continuity with the interior linemen help the transition into the new offensive scheme?



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Osemele: "Yeah, exactly. It's like anything job-related, right? It's a team and it's all about accountability. When you have guys that you can trust next to you, it just makes it that much better. Especially guys that you're friends with and guys that you hang out with off the field and everything like that. It all ties together. The whole teammate aspect of it. Just having three guys that you've been playing with for a while. As far as chemistry and as far as elevating and getting to that next level of play and having another year together, that's always good. I'm feeling pretty confident right now."

Q: What have been your impressions of P.J. Hall and Maurice Hurst?

Osemele: "Mo is looking real good, man. I'm really impressed with Mo. Definitely got a steal with him. He's looking real good. He's going to be good. If he just keeps going, the sky is the limit for that guy. P.J. has been looking good as well. He's a good player. Some things to work on with both of those guys because they're so young. They're still a little raw, but definitely talented."

Q: Have you seen any adjustments from Derek Carr that has been different from years in the past?

Osemele: "I feel like he's more confident in his checks when he's reading coverages. When safeties roll down like that, I just can kind of feel it when he's making certain calls. Then I can feel it, too, like I can see it. It's kind of like a communication thing. His communication is just a lot better when he sees safeties rolling down and things like that when there's a blitz coming off the edge. I think that's something I would say that's been better so far. We're still getting into it. It's still early, so there's still improvements to be made. Right now, I'm really happy with the way things are looking."

Q: You guys were on the sideline talking after the first team went, were you guys talking about the previous play?

Osemele: "Yeah, we were talking about a play where there was a guy...it was like a cross blitz coming in the middle with the linebackers. He was kind of talking about...He wasn't sure if we saw it. Like communicating on body language, guys leaning forward and stuff like that because you know, on that particular play we had to scat. So we had to be alert on the blitz in the 'A' gaps. He was just making sure that we saw that, which we did. So, we were just communicating. He was just getting confidence and reassurance because it's a new system. He's the quarterback. He wants to make sure he's protected and he's good. That's all we were talking about."

Q: Did you pick up right away that Gruden was going to want to run the ball?

Osemele: "Oh for sure. That's one of the first things he said coming up to me and Gabe [Jackson]. He said, 'I was so excited to come here and work with you guys because I love the way you guys run the ball. We're going to keep running the ball. We're going to make sure that we do that.' That obviously makes you feel good. Makes you feel like you're a part of it. I think that's going to be a big part of our game. I don't think we're going to be one dimensional. We have all these checks and these different things and audibles for the receivers and stuff like that. I don't think we're going to get away from the physicality whatsoever."

Q: Did anything about Gruden surprise you?

Osemele: "No, he's everything I thought he'd be. Just a high-intensity guy. Excitement and kind of the spark that we needed. It's been good."



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

Q: What have you pick up from Tom Cable and what are the differences between Cable and Mike Tice?

Osemele: "I would say that with Cable it's definitely one of those things where it's a challenge and a strain, mentally. He kind of wants to '[expletive] with ya,' as he would say. Like kind of mess with you a little bit. Kind of see if he can catch you with some trick questions and stuff like that. Make sure that you're actually studying. With Tice is was just kind of straightforward coaching guys. Maybe a little bit of babying here and there. Just tough coaching with Cable, so that's been good."

Q: What's it been like without having Khalil Mack?

Osemele: "I honestly haven't been thinking about that at all. We have so much going on right now. It's a new system. We're worried about our development right now. I'm sure he's doing whatever he needs to do to be ready when he comes back. Right now it's just kind of one of those things where it's next man up at this point until he gets back. He's a great player. My opinion, yes of course, I think we need to do whatever we can to get him back. He's just a phenomenal guy. You don't come across talent like that, but we haven't really even been letting that affect our preparation day in and day out."