



OAKLAND RAIDERS TRANSCRIPT

HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

Opening Statement: "We just had a final examination today. We ran about 100 plays in a walk-through basis, no-huddle, two-minute, tight red zone, audible, different blitzes. Pulled guys in and out of the lineup, put them at different positions, tried to create some muscle memory that these guys can go home and remember what some of these things sound like and feel like. But, I'm really pleased with the offseason. I couldn't really be more pleased. I got a lot of reps, we came together as a team which is the most important thing and we made progress and I saw the development of some young players and I saw the assertiveness of some veteran players which is absolutely a huge positive. I'll ask any questions I can."

Q: Is there an injury with Gareon Conley with him missing practice the last two days?

Coach Gruden: "He tweaked his groin. He could have obviously been out there today. He'll be ready to go for training camp, but just a mild strain."

Q: Did you increase your reps each day?

Coach Gruden: "We try to get more reps than anybody in the league. That's one thing if I go down, you'll be able to say the Raiders got more reps than anybody in football. *(laughter)* We're going to try to lead the league in effort and try to lead the league in reps. Repetition is the mother of learning. I learned that from Johnny Majors way back when. A lot of people right now are trying to eliminate reps, eliminate practices and I think it's hogwash. So, we got to create as many reps as possible because it's just a matter of time before your backup left guard has to play. It's a matter of time before your backup quarterback has to play and if they don't get any reps, you're not going to be very good at what you do. So, sorry for going off on that tangent. *(laughter)*"

Q: How rewarding was it today to see Derek Carr and the first team offense executing at the level they were?

Coach Gruden: "It's really been impressive. Watching on the other side of the ball and seeing Derrick Johnson do the same thing, it's satisfying. It makes you really want to go on vacation and enjoy a couple days off. The work that those two guys put in – I've been with Derek since I got here since this offseason program started I should say – sometimes hard work pays off."

Q: Between now and training camp, what did you tell them what you wanted them to do?

Coach Gruden: "Well, I challenged our draft picks, our rookies, all of them. I challenged really the last three draft classes. We need to get more out of our young players here. I also told them that I don't think we can bring in much better leadership from a veteran class of guys. I told the veterans if the young guys don't start following you guys, you'll be playing in all four preseason games. We've got some great role models. I want our young guys to stay on the gas pedal, be smart in what they do in the offseason and try to keep their football very close to them; keep studying, keep training and getting mentally and physically fresh. If we do that, we'll have a chance."

Q: How important is it for a coaching staff that has been going really hard since January to recharge before the season starts?



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Coach Gruden: "I think it is important. These coaches, they've been in there every day at 5 a.m. I go home at 7 pm and some of them are still in here every day. There's been no May this year, no April. Nobody's a very good golfer I can guarantee you that. *(laughter)* These guys need to be with their families – their wives, their kids, their families. And do some things maybe outside of football that they like to do. I'm having elbow surgery tomorrow, so I'm kicking off my offseason with a real, real bang. Aren't I?"

Q: When you hired your staff, how much did you look at people who you had relationships with or was it that just that you were looking for good coaches?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, it was big. The acquisition of coaches is as important as acquiring players. That all started with the coordinators. Getting [Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator] [Rich] Bisaccia in here was huge. For him to leave the Dallas Cowboys and get here to me is one of my best moves I have made as a coach. And getting [offensive coordinator] Greg Olson to leave the Rams to come here and obviously [defensive coordinator] Paul Guenther has proven to be tremendous. Getting him to come here all the way across the country with his kids, great. [Wide receiver coach] Edgar Bennett I go way back with – been the offensive coordinator with the Packers, [offensive line coach] [Tom] Cable's a world champion line coach. [Defensive line coach] [Mike] Trgovac I've worked with before. I think [defensive backs coach] [Derrick] Ansley is going to be a star, I've said that. I'll take my coaching staff against anybody's in football. They've worked hard and progress has been made because of them."

Q: Can you explain why you ended practice the way you did with the team around the kickers while they kicked field goals?

Coach Gruden: "Well, we're just letting those kickers know that anything is possible in training camp. We're going to have a competitive situation. I think the rookie out of Florida is a capable guy. He's a capable guy. And I also think [Giorgio] Tavecchio, he's not going to relinquish that job. But it's going to be competitive, we're going to try to stage some competitive drills, not only at the kicking position, but some of these young players they might get their eyes opened the first few days of pads."

Q: Is there anyone in particular that has stood out?

Coach Gruden: "Ryan Switzer has really caught my eye. Switzer has come in here and not only been a punt returner, kick returner, he's come in and been a force as a slot receiver. He's really done well. Kolton Miller, been impressed with Miller. There's several guys. I think Marquel Lee, [Nicholas] Morrow, our young linebackers have come on. Our linebacker coach David Lippincott does an excellent job. I think his rapport with Paul Guenther from the Bengals' days has really been a huge plus for us."

Q: How has the dynamic been with the young guys and veterans on the defensive side of the ball?

Coach Gruden: "It's been tough. There's not a lot of young guys on this team that we can just put in there. We had to go out and acquire players. We did that in the draft to a degree. We brought in a couple defensive tackles. We think Nick Nelson can compete as a nickel corner. We think Arden Key can play. But, we don't have a lot of proven guys that have a lot of status in this league or film to study. Eddie Vanderdoes is hurt. Mario [Edwards Jr.] is hurt. So, it's been a problem. Our secondary was pretty much decimated in free agency. So, it's a work in progress. We have a long way to go."

Q: Is there one area where you feel pretty good about on defense?



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Coach Gruden: "I feel pretty good everywhere. I'd feel a lot better if No. 52 was walking around here right now. He's the man. He's the guy we have to figure out how to get back in here. Progress has been made. I think when we get everybody together a couple weeks into training camp we can better answer these questions because it is just shorts."

Q: Why are you having elbow surgery?

Coach Gruden: "I had elbow surgery from Warren King the last time I was coaching the Raiders and I had a relapse. I can't straighten my right arm anymore and it's been sore the last few years. Mo Collins, one of my old offensive guards knocked me sideways and I landed on my elbow, so I had to get surgery. Long story short, it's bothered me really bad. I can hardly throw and I can't golf. So, hopefully in a couple weeks I'll be 100 percent."

Q: Did he accidentally knock you down?

Coach Gruden: "*(laughter)* I was simulating Junior Seau in an A-gap. We missed a couple gap calls against the Chargers and Mo got me."

Q: You were disappointed the other day that you had to release Christian Hackenberg. Do you think he has a future in the NFL?

Coach Gruden: "I think he does. Everybody's an expert out there on Hackenberg. They think he can't play. It's unfortunate. This whole collective thing, how do you develop a quarterback? I mean, I don't know how you do it unless some people are doing it with virtual reality goggles – they're getting reps that way. That's not possible. It's just hard to get Connor Cook enough reps. It's hard to get EJ [Manuel] any reps and let alone a fourth guy. But he's been working on changing and quickening his stroke, his passing motion. I think he did that, we just didn't have enough reps to take a good look at him. Since we were further along the road with some of our other guys, we didn't have the space. But it really depresses me how we can't spend more time with these young quarterbacks and I think it's really going to be an impactful situation on the NFL in the future."

Q: You and Coach Bisaccia seem like you are wired fairly similarly. Is that fair to say?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, that's probably a good observation. *(laughter)* We go way back. I think neither one of us were very good players. He went to Yankton, I went to Dayton. So, we have that chip on our shoulder I guess. I don't know, we just love football man. We love it. We love helping players and we love to create an urgency every day. Don't lose this opportunity to get better. The accumulation of knowledge is a powerful thing, and if we can just convey that to our guys and sell that to our guys and demand that from them, we have a chance to get results and we have a chance to get a buy-in. That's what I love about him."

Q: Is he one of those guys you can call early in the morning?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, he's one of those guys. He sure is."



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OFFENSIVE LINE COACH TOM CABLE

Q: What's it like to be back?

Coach Cable: "I think the strangest moment was probably getting off the airplane. It was interesting because there was a couple of opportunities and I wasn't sure about this one. Once I got off the plane, it was like being at home. I really think from the car ride over from the airport to here, it was great peace. Then when I went through the gate, it was like this is where I belong. So, it's been great."

Q: What's it been like working with Jon Gruden?

Coach Cable: "A lot of fun. I think for a guy who's been involved in football in a different way and yet away from the field on an everyday basis, he has a really cool system. He has a really dynamic way of doing things every day, which I think is fresh and very refreshing for those of us who have been involved in the game in his absence. It's been, I think, a lot of fun. It's been the right kind of work. There's a real vision here, and I think that's important."

Q: Was there much of relationship between you and Gruden before you joined the staff?

Coach Cable: "We'd known each other when he'd come do games and I was in Seattle. Really, I think, the only time I knew him before that is we played him in '08 down there in Tampa. Beyond that it really wasn't anything. I'd see him when he'd come do Monday Night games, and just knew who he was. He knew who I was, and that's really about it. I think the connection, at least for me, is he loves ball like I love ball. He's intense about it. He has a belief about what he likes and all of that. When we got a chance to sit down, for me, I was shocked how well we kind of hit it off. I was excited, enlightened by it because you don't know what to expect. Anytime you go into a job interview, that's for any business. This one was really refreshing. It was exciting. He loves his football team like I do. Regardless of what the past had been for either one of us, there's a little bit of Raider blood in both of us. I think that the fact that it worked out when we sat down and talked made this all the better for the both of us."

Q: That 2008 game was the last game for both you and Gruden. Was that game ever discussed?

Coach Cable: "We've joked about it a couple of times, but not really. That was the only time and we were just a young team trying to figure some things out. They were battling for the playoffs and all that kind of thing. I think the thing I've really learned about it is his passion for this place and for the game. That's what I love about him and what we're trying to do."

Q: What did you like about Kolton Miller during the draft process and how has he looked?

Coach Cable: "I think two things, how he's looked so far. One, it's not too big for him. He's looked just fine. He's kind of put an exclamation point on our choosing of him. What I saw in him was a lot of really good characteristics of a left tackle. He's very athletic. He's very smart. For a tall kid, he can really bend. I think that's really important. Everybody, you worry when they get too tall sometimes. The guy can unfold, as we say. He has a quiet toughness to him that I think has really shown up a lot. His consistency already as a young player in spring football has been amazing. We'll get to camp. We'll really kind of dial it in and get him competing when it's combative and those sort of things. But like the guy, like the pick. I think to that regard, we drafted two tackles. You can't play in this league without two offensive tackles. That's really become the deal. You can sometimes hide some guys inside, and when you're really good in there like we are, it's a big bonus. You can't hide tackles. So it was imperative that we did that for this program."



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Q: How much can you tell about a rookie like him without the pads?

Coach Cable: "That part, I don't think you can until you do it. I think his learning curve and the way he fixes problems. The way you see him adjust and learn, those sort of things, like gold. It's really valuable. Ultimately, this is a big-boy game. It gets real violent, physical and you won't find that out until you get to camp and you get to really compete in that way."

Q: What is it like having the three interior linemen you have? You don't really have a problem with hiding guys here.

Coach Cable: "No, no. In fact, it's a real luxury. We're really blessed here. Reggie [McKenzie] and those guys, putting those three inside together is a pretty good deal. What it does for you is it gives you some mentors in there. It gives you guys that have been through some battles. KO [Kelechi Osemele] has been on a world championship team. That's important to have people that have been through those things. The thing about them, I think for me, is how willing they are to learn and to grow and to get better. Quite honestly, I was a little bit shocked by that early. That kind of dissipated in two days. These guys have been as hungry as the young guy Kolton has in terms of wanting to improve and wanting to grow. I think anytime a guy is like that, regardless of how good he is, he has a chance to be really special. These guys are already pretty good."

Q: What was it that made you unsure about your decision to come back to Oakland? How much did the pieces that were already here on the offensive line factor into your decision?

Coach Cable: "When I get to a group, I kind of fall in love with them. They become part of my family, if you will. It's always been like that for me. It's an obvious answer, I think, to your question. When I left here, I left here and I didn't want to. That's just the truth. I put that team back and got it up off the mat. Dusted itself off, got to .500 and then we're going to change. It was like unfinished business. It was really kind of natural and a comfortable decision to be back and wear these colors again."

Q: Is the unfinished business aspect similar to Gruden?

Coach Cable: "I think there's a lot similarity there. You look at what he was able to do right there at the late 90's, early 2000's. Really get this thing going again. Then he's not here anymore. I think, yeah, we both felt like that. For some people, this can be just a business all the time. I think for guys like he and I, at least as I get to know him, it's more personal. You know? This has been my team since I was a little boy, so it's not like it changed because I got run out of town. It probably just made it a little bit deeper for me, which is cool. That's why I'm here."

Q: How did you not get bitter after what happened to you the first time you were here?

Coach Cable: "There was really no reason to be bitter. The thing about it, no disrespect to y'all that work in the media, whenever things are said or happen or whatever, that's your job. You have to do it. You have to write a story, but the truth is what you know in your family. What you have to live with going forward. All the great things that Al Davis had done. To me, those are valuable. Did we always get along? No. There are not a lot of people that probably got along with him all the time. My respect for him is unblemished. I think that's where people would say, 'Why aren't you bitter?' Well, because you see for me it's different. He's a teacher to me. He's a mentor to me. Whether I get along with him or not, wasn't the issue. I took so much from him. To have the opportunity to come back and help make this right, like the vision I had earlier was and to help Jon see this though the right way, that's pretty powerful to me. I



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don't really think there's any place for bitterness. I think this is a chance to really go back and say, 'This is where I belong, this is where I'm supposed to be.' And look forward to it."

Q: How have the rookie defensive linemen been for your line to block?

Coach Cable: "Good. I think both the inside guys have a lot of quickness. I think really they've been good for Gabe [Jackson] and for Kelechi. I would say, outside, if you really look at the LSU kid [Arden Key], he has so much hand speed and violence. He kind of excites you. I was around Bruce [Irvin] in Seattle for a good while. Those guys can really eat up your cushion as an offensive tackle and get on top of you. He certainly can do that. I feel like, as we try to create pass rush, which you have to particular in the fourth quarter when you have a lead in this league. Those guys have a chance to do some cool things."

Q: What's it like being back with Marshawn Lynch?

Coach Cable: "It's fun. We had a blast. We go up there. He had just been traded from Buffalo. We did something really magical to go to two Super Bowls. We win one. Should've won the second one. The whole time I'm there, he and I connected. I know he doesn't like to talk to you and all of that, but he's one of the smartest football players I've ever known. I don't hand that one out very often. He's been really a blessing for his teammates. He was phenomenal in the locker room as a leader in Seattle. I see the same characteristics going on here. I think for him, to be back together will give him a chance to dust himself off from kind of an up and down year last year. Didn't really look like his old self until the last six weeks, I thought. Put him in something that he can rev it up and be who he is."

Q: How important is it to get the work down in the meeting rooms?

Coach Cable: "I think that's where football is at now. I think, the old days of you have to go out and grind. Do this, do that., there's really not time to do that and the rules don't allow you to do it. You have got to grow as teachers. All of us in this league. Go back to when you were a high school coach or a college coach and reflect on how to put together a lesson plan. How to put together the details. How to teach them. How to create muscle memory. How to create good habits. Good routines. I think all those things play into it. I really, out of all of this, I love the relationships, but I love the teaching as much as anything. I was really proud to hear that because that's important to me. I think the players know that. I want to make you the best version of you. I don't know what that is yet, but once we find it, we're going to get it. When collectively we do that, we're going to be pretty good. I think they understand that."

Q: Who has jumped out to you?

Coach Cable: "The thing that I think is exciting for me as a line coach is if you kind of look at the big picture, the pieces, the group of 16 guys. You have a veteran in Donald Penn coming off an injury, so he's been real limited, but you have guys in there. Jon Feliciano, who's shown up. He's had a history. He's played some here. You want to keep him healthy. You want to keep him available to you because it looks like he can play a number of spots and he's real valuable. I'm really excited about David Sharpe. I look at David Sharpe, I know they picked him in the fourth-round last year, and I'm looking at this guy and for a while it was uncomfortable for him. He didn't like being uncomfortable, but you can't be a lineman in this league and not almost cherish that ugliness side of it. It's kind of cool because it'll help you in life. But this guy, he's learning that right now. You look at him and you think, 'My God, there's a right tackle that might play in this league for 10 years if he ever captures it.' To your question, it's the same answer I gave him. When David realizes who he is at his best, this kid is going to go off the chain on something and it's going to be cool and you hope he's on your team. I see right tackles in this league."



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There aren't a few good ones and I think this guy has the potential. It doesn't mean anything right yet, but he has the potential to be a really good football player. It'll be up to him whether he chooses to do that or not."

Q: Have you been overidentified with zone schemes?

Coach Cable: "Yeah. Think about when I was in Atlanta, we did something amazing there. It was like ninth all-time rushing total in the history of football. All we did was run a wide zone play. Then we come here and they were last in rushing and they went to a top-10 and stayed there. It was just learning something new. If you remember there was a lot of counters and powers and all of that. I think that's the truth of it. You'd like to have a good mix. I've probably been labeled that, but that's OK. We run the ball pretty good. I'm not worried about that."

Q: What was the importance in bringing Breno Giacomini?

Coach Cable: "You think about Jon's philosophy. Coach Gruden has looked at it as 'hey, I want to have the right veterans in place as mentors and to teach people that have been in this scheme a little bit.' That's what Breno has been for us. If you've been at practice, you'll see. I don't like standing around. I don't like to have like classroom on the field or let's talk about things. I don't like all that warm fuzzy stuff. I want to go, go, go. I think that at practice, they build up that adaptation to working fast and furious like that and thinking that way. They play like that. They play at a different level. So, you need someone who's been there and taught that. That's really what Breno's role is. He's been in it. He's been in the world championship. He held the Lombardi [trophy]. He's been a part of the best rushing team in football. He's done all those things that you want your linemen to do in this system, and he's lived through it. He knows what it's going to be. Know my expectation, what I'm saying. If they have a question, they can go to him and talk to him. He's a great mentor for the group."

Q: Did you learn anything about Brandon Parker after yesterday?

Coach Cable: "This underwear football. This is spring ball. The battles haven't even started yet. Did I learn anything? He'll stand up for himself. That's what you want. That's really KO's deal is 'hey, alright, this rookie is OK with me because he'll stand up for himself.' The bottom line is you can't have team that all it does is fight and all of that because the way rules are now, they throw guys out of the game, 15-yard penalties. It kills your team. But boys will be boys, I guess the way to say it. It's going to be hot in Napa and they're going to be a little pissed off here and there. They're going to be grinding and things might happen. I don't know if I'm all into that whole fight thing, I just know that you have to stand up for yourself. We'll really find out what we're all made of here as we move forward."



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RODNEY HUDSON

Q: This running game was working with Marshawn Lynch at the second half of last season. What do you think it does to have a whole season with familiarity between all of you?

Hudson: "Things are going good. We just have to continue to work hard every day and focus in on the game plan and run schemes to execute."

Q: What jumps out at you about Tom Cable?

Hudson: "He's a really good coach. He's smart. He's been around a long time, which brings a lot of knowledge. He's smart and detailed about what we're trying to do so there's no confusion. You can tell he loves it, just like all the coaches. Come to work every day and everybody is trying to get better."

Q: He's been identified as a zone-scheme guy for years, but what's been your observation about the mixture that he's putting together?

Hudson: "We have a bunch of run scheme stuff. All of us with our first time together, we're just learning and we do have a bunch of stuff."

Q: What jumps out about the two rookies, Kolton Miller and Brandon Parker?

Hudson: "Smart kids. They listen. They're learning and working and asking questions, which I think is always important for young guys. To ask questions about where they can do better, and both of those guys do that."

Q: What have you seen going up against the two rookie defensive tackles?

Hudson: "They're some good, young players. They have a lot of ability. They're working hard and doing a good job."

Q: Coach Gruden has said you're the guy that makes the offense go. How have you been able to pick up things?

Hudson: "Studying and learning, asking questions myself. Trying to make sure I know what I'm doing so I'm able to help everybody else out. It's a learning process. I think it will continue through our camp. I still have a lot to learn. We have to lean on each other and help each other out."

Q: Is there a lot on your plate, maybe more than other schemes?

Hudson: "I've been in a lot of schemes in my career, but I wouldn't say it's more. I've been playing for awhile now, so my expectations of what I'm supposed to do is pretty high. Everybody is helping each other out so it's going good."

Q: Do you try to learn everything you need to learn about the front line, or do you try to know about every aspect of the offense?

Hudson: "Eventually. It takes time, but I would like to know everything. it helps me play faster and see what's going on, because on defense the coverage goes along with the front, the backers, everything. the better you can see all that stuff, the faster you can play. I think that's important for you to anticipate what's going to happen. If you know it and you're confident that you know, you can play faster."



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Q: So you'll want to know why a tight end is shifting, etc.?

Hudson: "Right because a tight end shift then the backers might move or the safeties might rotate or something."

Q: How was it working through different terminology?

Hudson: "It's good. It's tough because it's everybody's first time being together, coaches and players, being in this offense. We do some good things but we also make mistakes, too. We try to build on the good and fix the things we don't do so well or make an error on. I think we just have to continue to learn all the way up to when we start playing."

Q: Derek Carr talked about feeling rejuvenated. What have you seen from him?

Hudson: "Yeah. DC is always energetic, but he's having a good time. Having fun and is attentive, eager to learn. It's going good."

Q: What preconceived notions did you have about Gruden before he got here?

Hudson: "Personally, I try not to pre-judge or preconceive anything. I come in and take things for what they are. I don't believe in making assumptions about someone until you meet them, until you work with them. I really had none of that."

Q: Since he's been here, what do you think about him now?

Hudson: "He's good. He's the same guy every day, which you grow to respect. People who come in and be consistent and remain their authentic self, it brings a lot of energy. You can tell he loves the game. I think that's infectious to everybody."

Q: Kelechi Osemele mentioned the other day that when Brandon Parker stood up for himself in the scuffle the other day, it impressed him. Do you read into any of that?

Hudson: "Yeah, I do actually. When you come in as a rookie, you get pushed on by everybody. 'Get out of the way rookie' or whatnot. In certain situations in this league, you have to stand up for yourself. He's fine. He's learning. He's going to be fine."

Q: Kolton Miller, what has jumped out?

Hudson: "Really smart kid. Very athletic. He has good feet. He's working really hard and asking questions like 'hey did I do that right?' and whatnot. He pays attention. He's always focused in meetings. He never is a guy that drifts off when meetings go long. I always look back and see, and he always has his pen and paper out trying to learn."

Q: How much time will you be away from football not thinking about it and how much time will you be in the playbook between now and training camp?

Hudson: "I have to spend a lot more time. Any time you go into an offseason and you've been in the same system for two or there years, you might not have to look at things as close as I have to now because it's new and we have a bunch of different things we're doing. We want to perfect them. Even though nothing is perfect, we want to perfect what we're doing. I will have to be studying a good bit. Like I said, I try to be as sharp as I can so I can help the man next to me and vice versa. Everybody else is trying to be as sharp as they can to help me out."



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Q: Does it help as you're learning a new scheme that you've worked with Kelechi and Gabe for a long time?

Hudson: "It helps a lot. It helps a good bit because any time you have a new scheme, you might have a new call. It might not come out as fluid but I know I can turn to either one of them and say something from the past and they'll know what I'm talking about. It helps the process go. After that, if a situation happens we can talk about it later and fix it the right way. It helps a lot to be familiar with guys and play a lot of ball with them."

Q: What have you seen from David Sharpe?

Hudson: "I think it's big from the first year to the second year. You become more aware and more familiar with what it takes. When you first come in, you just don't know. Now that he knows what's about to happen, as far as install and how it goes up until the season, I think that will help him a lot. He'll know what to expect. Just like the rest of us, we're just learning and working hard trying to get better."