



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: Was the move to a new facility today again due to the field drainage?

Coach Gruden: "Yes. We've made some adjustments on our roster the last couple weeks. So we've gone inside to try to multiply the reps, get a lot of reps for a lot of people that we've got to get ready to play."

Q: Does it take away from anything you do when you have to move it to an indoor facility?

Coach Gruden: "You know there's pro's and con's to everything. On a Wednesday, I'd like to get a lot of reps, teach the game plan, get everybody sound in their assignments. You can run the same play multiple times against different looks. It's not full speed, but it's a very important part of learning, especially when you've got the amount of change that we've had at some of these positions. I think it's beneficial. We'll come out and run around fast tomorrow and Friday and get ready for the Titans."

Q: Mike Vrabel was talking on the conference call today about how well you've played at home this season and that he knows the Titans will get your best effort. Do you feel that you've defended your home field well this year?

Coach Gruden: "We feel like we've played pretty good football all year. We've had some ups and downs obviously, especially the last couple weeks. You know, we're 6-6. That's nothing to really brag about, but we're excited about progress. We do like playing at home like everybody else. We've been on the road more than anybody in the history of the world now. You know 45,000 miles of travel is a joke, and it's taken a toll on our team. I believe that. But it's good to be home, sleep in your own bed, play a home game, especially with the kind of fans that we have."

Q: When you say being on the road so much has taken a toll on the team, where do you see that?

Coach Gruden: "I'm not going to get into all of that right now. It's just a ridiculous amount of travel and it's been tough. But here we are. We've got a four-game schedule left. We're still alive. We've still got a lot of character and hard-working football players that I'm excited about."

Q: What's the confidence level like after back-to-back road losses?

Coach Gruden: "I'm not going to answer for everybody, but I think we've got a confident group of guys. We realize what we're up against. The Titans are a great team. They're in first place. They can do a lot of things. They present a lot of problems. But we know what we're capable of the doing if we play good football, and we play complimentary football. That's the key."

Q: How did you evaluate all of Keelan Doss' snaps on film from last game, and how has he been coming along at practice?

Coach Gruden: "He's got a tough job you know. Not only playing in the NFL after being out for a month not playing. He's got to back up and play three positions. That's hard to do for a five-year veteran. I think he's doing well. I think he's got to continue to get better and better and better and I think he will the more experience that he gets, but this will be a tough test for him."

Q: What are you seeing from Ryan Tannehill since he's taken over at quarterback for the Titans?

Coach Gruden: "I see some gritty tough performances. You know, bringing you back the win against Kansas City. You know, taking over the job really six or seven games into the season is hard, really hard. I thought he's done some good things with his decision making, he can run, they're creative with the



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playbook, they've got a great back, and he's a threat going the other way if he keeps it, and he's been real accurate throwing the ball, and he's been really good. He's been money in crunch time, so kudos to him. He's really playing well."

Q: What has Richie incognito been to this team? Has he been everything that you've thought? Any surprises?

Coach Gruden: "He might be, if you ask the players, I would say he's probably one of the guys that they look up to the most, and he's a fun guy to be around. You can't believe everything you read. Let me say it like that. You know, he's had some well-documented issues in his past, but he is a great teammate, he's a great player, he's a heck of a leader, and we're glad we have him. We're trying to keep him on for another three or four years."

Q: Did you know much about Richie Incognito before he came here?

Coach Gruden: "Yes. I've known people that coached him, and obviously broadcast and I've covered him. I've got a lot of respect for him. He's been a pro bowl player and should be one this year also."

Q: What are the biggest challenges Derrick Henry present?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah I think the secret sauce in Henry is he's got all the talent, and size, and running instincts, but he never tires. He does not get tired. He's a machine, man. This guy wears you down – physical – he can wear you down. You've got to gang tackle him. He's a better-than-advertised receiver, but he just never tires. The more they give him the ball, the better he gets. It's an impressive human being."

Q: What's made Tennessee a solid defensive team without a whole lot of household names?

Coach Gruden: "Vrabel's a great coach. He's got a lot of history on the defensive side of the ball. They do a lot of good things with their scheme especially on third down, a lot of difference blitzes, disguises. When they're healthy, they have good players at all three levels, and they play with discipline and high energy. It's a credit to them."

Q: Can you see a lot of New England type stuff since Coach Vrabel took over?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah sometimes, yeah sometimes do. Getting [Jeffery] Simmons back has really helped them, their first-round draft choice. He's a big-time player. And you know everybody likes [Harold] Landry. He's a real good pass rusher. And when their corners are healthy, they're very, very good. And they've got a real good safety too."

Q: You've only got two games left at the Coliseum. What makes that place so unique for you on a personal level?

Coach Gruden: "I guess in a lot of ways I was raised here, you know what I mean? It's the beginning of my NFL coaching career in a lot of ways, at least head coaching career. I just love it here. I had my first son here and I kind of have a lot of history here, and some of my friends, a lot of my friends are in the black hole. A lot of my only friends are here. *(laughter)* I don't have a lot of friends accept the guys in the black hole. *(laughter)* I only get to see them six or seven times. I get emotional talking about it. We're excited about the future. I don't want to underestimate that either, but we're also very respectful of where we come from and just the two games that we have left."



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Q: Is there one particular moment that stands out for you at the Coliseum?

Coach Gruden: "I'll just say one day we were playing and it was pre-game warm ups and I looked over there and I saw my mom in the black hole. I said, 'somebody go get my mom.' (laughter) My favorite memory though was really when Al Davis would come out and I would see him down in there in the black hole with the fans. That was really cool for me. I enjoyed that a lot."

Q: I'm sure you're not surprised at all about Josh Jacobs' success, but are there particular facets of his game that have surprised you?

Coach Gruden: "He's tough man, he's tough. He is a tough guy, he is a great kid, and he's smart, and he's a great competitor. Those are the things that people don't see. Maybe they feel it, but he is off the charts when it comes to being on the mark in terms of his assignments, and he has a lot of pride in his performance. He's the perfect centerpiece for our offense."

Q: Do you see him Jacobs as a team leader?

Coach Gruden: "He will be. Yeah, I think all of our rookies are going to be emerging captain type players here, and it's a credit to [General Manager] Mike [Mayock] and the scouts, and what we're looking for here. We need to continue to stack draft classes together like the one we just had."

Q: I don't know if you're on the Snapchat, but Jacobs said he has a fractured shoulder?

Coach Gruden: "I'm not on the Snapchat, no I'm not. I'm not going to get into the extent of his injury, but you know since the Green Bay game he has certainly been playing through a lot, and it's a credit to him, again."

Q: Is there any update on Hunter Renfrow in terms of if you are going to keep him on the roster?

Coach Gruden: "We're very hopeful that he could return maybe for the last game or two. We're going to keep him where he is on the active roster. We're going to try to do without him for another game or two and hopefully get him back maybe for the Charger game. That's our wish list, hope list right now for Hunter. We miss him."

Q: You said Monday that you might shake things up a little bit with the receiver group. Is that giving more snaps to certain guys, or how are you going about that?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah we're in the process of shaking. That's one of the reasons why we changed practice venues again. You know we've had to change gears a lot. It's an impact on us, and how we game plan, and how we call plays, and how we adjust. So, we'll get to the bottom of that here tonight, but we plan on shaking things up just a little bit yes."

Quarterback Derek Carr

OPENING STATEMENT: "I'll just start by saying with everything going on, with football and all those kinds of things, I just wanted to send our prayers to Mr. Atkinson. George [Atkinson III] was a teammate of mine. It's crazy how quick life can come at you and I love George. We had a lot of fun playing basketball at 24 Hour Fitness, as well as playing football games together and competing together. He was always so joyful, man. So happy every single time. It felt like he was cut and resigned a whole bunch of times and every single time he just looked so thankful to be here, so I just wanted to say that we're thinking about him and his family that we love."



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Q: Did you have any sense of the pain he felt?

Carr: "No. I heard about what he wrote obviously, but I would have never guessed that he was struggling that hard. I know things had happened in the year prior and things like that make you hurt, but every time I was around George, I never thought that he was hurting that much to be honest. Every time I was around him he was full of happiness, full of joy, always joking."

Q: When you see a guy like Ryan Tannehill making the most of his second chance, what do you think of his comeback this year?

Carr: "Well, this game is funny like some situations are good for guys, some aren't. Like he's always been a guy that's made a lot of great plays, especially some of the most amazing throws under pressure you'll ever see. But he's never had the accolades and things like that, that people would talk about on TV and things like that, but it's no surprise to people that watch the film and compete against him that like, 'Oh yeah, he's having a great year.' They got a great team. They're really good on both sides of the football and that helps obviously. We've seen it this year with our team, everyone playing better, some of the guys we've added, it makes it easier for everybody at every position. So, it's a team game and I think Ryan has found himself in just a spot where he feels comfortable and he's making the most of it. He's a great player."

Q: What has been the difference you've seen with the offense over the past two weeks?

Carr: "Our execution has not been good enough at all. Like executing the plays to every detail hasn't been good enough at all. Turning the ball over myself. I don't do that. I don't want to do that. Never been something I've wanted to do or been a part of my game and so it doesn't matter how it happened or why it happened, it happened, and we have to eliminate the turnovers and that starts with me."

Q: Even the drives without the turnovers weren't going the way they had, what do you need to do to consistently move the ball?

Carr: "With that included, we have to eliminate penalties. You have to stay on schedule. That's the big thing in this league. If you don't stay on schedule, third-and-2 or third-and-3 is a lot different than third-and-7 and above. You're going to get different packages, coverages, they're going to make stuff up just to beat you and it's a different game when you don't stay on schedule. So, it sounds cliché, but that's a real thing and most of our games we've done a really good job of staying on schedule like that, making those third-and-shorts. They are easier to pick up, they are easier to get first downs that way. Defense doesn't know, you can still run the ball when you are at those kinds of downs and distances, but when you're in longer situations, it's kind of like, 'What's their call? What's your call? Hopefully yours merges and yours wins, right?' And sometimes they have a good call, or they have this or that. They make a play or whatever the case is, but we eliminate penalties, eliminate the turnovers, we stay efficient on first and second down everything will get better."

Q: How have you viewed Keelan Doss' progress and how the rapport building with him has been going?

Carr: "Yeah, I love Keelan. Even back in OTAs and training camp thought he worked extremely hard. He's someone when we got him, I couldn't believe he was undrafted. That was crazy because you see his talent, you see his work ethic, how smart he is. Learning this offense at one position is hard enough, he's trying to do it at all three and he's been doing a great job of that and where we're at right now we need



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him. We need him to play all three spots. Like coach said, he's been moving some stuff around as we've seen all throughout the year. Just trying to find the best situations for everybody and his name keeps popping up, 'Well, we can put him here.' And that's a good thing for Keelan."

Q: Does coming home kind of help with those execution problems and penalties?

Carr: "Absolutely. Coming home, we love being home. When you've been on the road a long time it's always nice to walk in and see your wife and so you get to come home and see your family. We get to walk into the stadium and see our family. Playing in front of your family and friends, things like that. It's a lot quieter when you have the ball on offense at home, sometimes. You get towards those end zones it gets pretty loud, but playing at home it definitely makes things more comfortable. But, it's still a NFL game and they're still battling for first place. They're a playoff caliber football team, so we have our work cut out."

Q: What makes the Coliseum so unique on a personal level?

Carr: "It's our fans. Our fans make it that way. The Black Hole. You don't go to any other stadium and see something like that. People have tried to imitate it. People have tried to steal their team's name and people behind it, but there's only one. It's Raider Nation. It started here and it will always be the Raider Nation, and I think that there's that mystique about the Raiders. When rookies or people are starting to come play here and I'll talk to them after the game like, 'Man, it's so cool to play here!' It's something that is like an experience for them, not just a football game, and so it's definitely just our fans that make it that way. Because whether we've been 0-10 or we've been trying to get a playoff spot, our fans are selling that place out and they're always here."

Q: What's one moment that comes to the front of your head when you think of the Coliseum, the Black Hole, the fans?

Carr: "My favorite moment, I've said this before it's funny, was when I broke my ankle. I broke my ankle and you could just feel the air go out of the stadium and I remember sitting there and as I was driving away, just the applause and the cheers. It was like for whatever reason in that moment I felt the love back and that's something I'll always remember, because I gave everything I have for our team and you give so much it's always nice to hear it back."

Q: After the game on Sunday you credited the Chiefs safeties with making a couple of nice plays. When you look back at those interceptions was that the case or was there anything you could take away from those two plays?

Carr: "Well definitely the first one. For sure on the first one. He had his responsibility and fell off of it. I mean we've thrown how many passes this year in NFL games and that's the first time I've thrown that ball and someone fell off their responsibility and did that. So, you get to week whatever and don't expect certain things like that to happen, but he's a great player and great players do some great things sometimes. The second one, I'll just throw it somewhere else next time."

Q: Tyrann Mathieu said that the Chiefs defense was able to pick up some things just based off pre-snap formations. Is that something that you go back and evaluate?

Carr: "No, not for me. That's stuff for the coaches and things like that. Like for me I just execute the plays that coach wants me to do to the best of my ability to be honest with you. When it comes to all that kind of stuff, we had some tips on them that worked for us too. That's how the game goes."



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Q: What do you think the key is to get back into an offensive rhythm in the passing game with guys like Tyrell Williams and Darren Waller?

Carr: "Yeah, it starts with just being efficient on first and second down. The game changes on certain downs and distances and we've had a rough two weeks. I've had a rough two weeks. It's time to get back on track, it's time to get back in our stadium, it's time to be efficient on offense, it's time to win. I'm excited we get a chance to go compete against a really good football team. That's the beautiful thing about this game. You rewind two weeks ago, we were the greatest story in the NFL and two weeks later we suck again, so I think we'll be alright. *(laughter)* We are just going to keep grinding, we're going to stick to what we do."

Q: What have you seen out of the Titans defense?

Carr: "They fly around. They've had some injuries obviously in some recent weeks but the style of play, the level of play does not change no matter who is in there. They fly around, they're physical, they're aggressive and we definitely have our work cut out for us. Coach said it wasn't going to get easier after that Jets game and it's just going to keep getting harder, and I kind of love it."

Q: When you see Josh Jacobs acknowledge how bad his shoulder has been for weeks now and just see the way he runs, is it impressive to you?

Carr: "His shoulder is hurt? *(laughter)* Didn't know that...When I tell you he's special it's stuff like that, that I knew about that you all didn't know about. Like you said, everyone plays with something. Hopefully it's always listed on the injury report and things like that, that every team does. Josh is special because football means a lot to him. I've been around some people before that have caught some kind of injuries and they are like, 'Dang! I wish I they would've played through that.' If Josh is unable to play, I would completely understand with what he's dealing with. But the fact that he keeps suiting up and going out there and running, not only running, but running with the style that he runs with, I don't think enough can be said about that guy."