



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** "Alright, Fast Friday. Ready to go. Good week of practice. Guys are full of energy and looking forward to going down and competing in the division. Questions?"

#### **Q: Do you expect Mario Edwards Jr. to play on Sunday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Do I expect him? He has not been activated to the roster yet. That would be your indicator if that happens."

#### **Q: Do you plan on activating him tomorrow?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's progressing. He's had a good week."

#### **Q: Is there a chance you would activate him?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We'll get him ready for next week. There's always a chance, but in all likelihood we'll hold off. I'm giving you more than I really want to give you. The reality is he's had a good week, and I'd like him to get another good week. He's getting close."

#### **Q: How have you assessed your pressure on opposing quarterbacks?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think we've been really good in key moments. We've been able to close games. We've been able to get off on third down. We've been able to do things like that, so not all we'd like it to be. I think that rush and coverage go hand in hand. We really haven't had the effectiveness of the interior push with a couple of guys that are pretty good at it that haven't been available. That's one area where we could benefit by getting a little more interior push. The last time we played these guys, Stacy [McGee] had two sacks inside. It's been there, but kind of sporadically. That'll be an area where it comes. Obviously, Khalil [Mack] is getting his numbers, Bruce [Irvin] is a presence off the edge. I think our edge press is pretty good. I think as our interior pressure goes a little bit better and our coverage is a little tighter, I think those numbers will jump up. Hopefully that can start this weekend."

#### **Q: With the penalties issue, you had the approach of not worrying much because you're achieving your ultimate goal of winning games. Is the sacks kind of the same thing?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Same thing. We're working on everything. I'm not putting my head in the sand on anything. As a team, we want to continue to improve as we go throughout the year. We're identifying some of the areas where we want to see ourselves grow. I think it's fair to say that's one of those areas. We expect to be better as we go and that's one of the areas we expect to be better in."

#### **Q: What have you seen from Jihad Ward this year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He plays hard, plays with great energy. He's very similar to Malik Jackson was his first year in Denver. Close on a lot of things. Doesn't make a lot of plays his first year, or hasn't done thus far, but he gives great energy. He's very willing. Hopefully it'll transition like it did for Malik, who turned into a real dominant player. He's got a skill set. He works hard. That's what we ask of our guys. Come in, work hard, be good kids, be conscientious and then the other stuff will come as they develop."