



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: You guys made a couple of roster moves, what is Doug Martin's injury?

Coach Gruden: "Doug has a shoulder injury unfortunately and he's going to go to injured reserve. We signed Corey Liuget, we're really excited about that. We think he's an excellent football player, thrilled to have him. Bryson Allen-Williams was added to the roster as a linebacker. We have some injuries at that position, so obviously he's going to come in and get ready to compete this week against the Seahawks, and Andrew DePaola was released as well. We needed to make a couple of roster moves today to sign Bryson Allen-Williams and Corey Liuget."

Q: How did Trent Sieg separate himself to get that job?

Coach Gruden: "It was tough. That was a very close call. We've got a young kicker, a young punter and a young snapper now. So, all the people that don't think I like young players, bah, humbug to all of you."

Q: What have you seen from Keisean Nixon over the last few preseason games?

Coach Gruden: "Well, if you've studied the film, you'll see what we see. He's made more plays than any of our corners. He's playing extremely well. He's confident. I mean, he's had a lot of ball production and he's also been a factor on special teams, so we are really pleased with Nixon."

Q: Having somebody like Liuget, who's played at a high level for a long time, what does that bring to the mix up front? And also what technique does he fit into?

Coach Gruden: "Well, we are a one-gap, 4-3 defense. Last year, when we came here, we were struggling to put the pieces together being a 3-4 team for a few years. Liuget is a legitimate 3-technique and can also be a penetrator as a nose. He can play heavy on the center in your sub packages, three-down alignments. He's smart. I think he's got 25 career sacks, so he gives us another veteran player with inside pass rush ability. He can bat down passes, play with a motor. We are thrilled to have him. We are going to try and get him in great shape to get him ready as soon as possible."

Q: What is Justin Ellis' status?

Coach Gruden: "Jelly hurt his knee. We think he'll be back hopefully for the season opener, but he's out."

Q: Is J.J. Nelson still dealing with the ankle injury?

Coach Gruden: "Yes, he has an ankle and we don't think it's real serious. Hopefully he'll be ready for the regular season."

Q: How about Josh Mauro?

Coach Gruden: "We have a lot of guys that are practicing today that are somewhat limited. Mauro is another one – a slight hamstring – but doing much better."

Q: What was your reaction to Andrew Luck retiring from football last night?

Coach Gruden: "I was surprised like everybody else now. Not shocked. He's had some injuries and if you know Andrew, he's one of the great, not only quarterbacks, he's a great competitor also. Really advanced in life. I'm sure he has a million things that he can do. The NFL will miss him. I know I'll miss competing against him. He's a good friend and a great player, and I wish him the best."



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Q: How is Isaiah Johnson doing?

Coach Gruden: "He's struggling. He had a facial injury against the Rams. Not quite sure if he'll be ready for the season opener but he's been out for the last couple days."

Q: How has Jordan Devey done stepping in for Gabe Jackson?

Coach Gruden: "Good. Devey's done good. He didn't play last week obviously, but he's been a left guard, right guard, center his whole career. He's going to be good. He's going to be fine. Denzelle Good is back to practicing, which is also good at right guard. It's good to see Good. We need some good things out of the big man."

Q: Do you think it will be one or the other for the first week at right guard?

Coach Gruden: "I think so. And 'Coop' [Jonathan Cooper] is going to play some right guard this week against Seattle. [Lester Cotton Sr.] Cotton is going to play a lot at left guard. We like him, too. So, we got some young guys that are emerging. We got some veteran players that are coming back and hopefully they can hold down the fort, because they got to replace a great player."

Q: The transition from tackle to center that Andre James has done, why did you identify him as the guy to make the switch?

Coach Gruden: "I think [offensive line coach Tom] Cable deserves a lot of credit. He's developed some players from defensive side of the ball to offensive side of the ball, he's made a lot of tight ends tackles, etc. But this kid has the size, the mobility and the traits that a lot of centers have that are successful. And a lot of players come in to pro football and transition from tackle to guard or guard to center. This kid has done a great job. I credit [assistant offensive line coach Lemuel Jeanpierre] 'Lem' and Cable and the grind that they've put in behind the scenes has been impressive."

Q: Do you like the trend of starters playing less in the preseason? Do you have concerns about them not getting enough work in?

Coach Gruden: "Well, the problem is the preseason isn't just for the starters. These poor backups don't even get a rep when the season starts, so we got to use these preseason games to develop young players and we might have five or six undrafted rookies make the team. We would have never found that out if we didn't play them. And I don't think the preseason has ever been for the veterans as much as the practices are, but I think the games are critical to evaluate young players, quarterbacks that don't get much of a chance when the season starts."