



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: "Getting on the road again, headed back to the East Coast. We've got another Thursday ahead of us. Looking forward to another good day of practice so we can have a good performance on Sunday back East."

Q: Have you seen any changes in Jack Del Rio from when you were in Jacksonville to now?

Coach Musgrave: "Well, most of the time I'm just worried about my own kitchen, try to keep my own head above water. (*laughing*) I'm definitely not going to evaluate Jack. I enjoy working for him. The two years I worked for him in Jacksonville were the best two years of my professional life. The organization, the structure, you get to concentrate on your job and not just worry about being at the right place at the right time with changing schedules, unevenness. So I jumped at the chance to do it again and I'm really glad I did."

Q: Why were those two years the best of your coaching career?

Coach Musgrave: "I just think I grew a lot as a coach. Each year you learn something. Good coaches, we try to learn something from every game, every practice, but I learned a bunch those two years and grew. Also got to see how Jack ran his program, which was impressive."

Q: Was there a reason you guys didn't use Jamize Olawale in last week's game?

Coach Musgrave: "No, we had him in a couple of times and a couple runs checked to passes. The one to Seth [Roberts] on third-and-2, but we want to get 'Maze' [Jamize Olawale] his touches. I didn't feel like we came out of that game giving 'Maze' his deserved touches, Michael Crabtree, Clive [Walford]. Amari [Cooper] got his share, the lion's share, but I would say there were a lot of guys that we left unused. Not good."

Q: In what ways does this run game look different without Latavius Murray?

Coach Musgrave: "Well, Latavius has his own skill set. Had some explosive runs for us last year. We'll look forward to getting him back at some point. Hopefully it's this week. The other two young guys and 'Maze' are all doing their part as well. I think DeAndre [Washington] had a good day the other day averaging nearly five yards a carry. We just need more production, more opportunities and we didn't get that for him Sunday."

Q: How did Murray do in practice yesterday? Was he able to move around some?

Coach Musgrave: "Yeah. Yeah, I think he got a handful of plays out there. I think he's looking to get better each and every day and hopefully it's good enough by the time the next game arrives."

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: When you look at what the defense has done over the first two weeks, do you try to change anything or are you sticking to the core plan?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "It depends on what you believe in. If you believe in your players, you believe in your coaches, you believe in yourself, obviously, you'd like the stats to be better. We're at 4-2. We're in a pretty good place record-wise, but the stats need to be better. I think that we need to continue understanding what we are, who we are and getting better at what we're doing. You see the things that are going wrong. We're missing tackles, the ball goes over our head, we'll get reached. Those little things, the details need to be taken care. You look at real good defenses, you look at our defense, there's not a lot of differences, but they make the plays that we're supposed to make. We have the right people. It's a matter of getting it done on game day."

Q: So there are no major changes?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "It's about belief. We work hard and we have the right people and we'll get it done."



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Q: Why do you think communication issues on defense haven't been fixed coming into Week 7?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, it's been fixed. It just comes up at different times. It comes up at the worst times. At the same time, we're continually practicing. Again there are 16 games and you have to continue to being obsessed with improvement and that we are. We have a group of guys, a group of coaches and our leadership, everybody cares a lot. They come in early in the morning and they stay late at night working their tails off. I think that each time we go out, again we're obsessed with improvement. The communication, the playmaking, the coaching, all of it has got to continue to improve."

Q: How do you fix communication?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, you have to practice. You have to make sure that you made things clear. You have to practice communication again. It's just a matter of asking the right questions, answering the right questions and then making sure that everybody is on the same page."

Q: What kind of challenge does Jacksonville bring to the communication with a no-huddle offense?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "There's a lot of plays that we have great communication on. People just want to bring out the ones you had bad communication on, but at the same time, any time you have tempo or no-huddle, the idea is that you cannot communication, but you can always make your checks and make your calls. Sometimes it's not always as fast as it seems. You can play any defense; it's about execution. You have to execute. You have to have your leverage. You have to tackle. It doesn't change no matter what time you play ball. There's no question that there's some things that we need to improve on."

Q: Has the plan for Bruce Irvin changed at all since you brought him in?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Bruce is doing everything. Bruce is really good at going forward. He's a really good cover guy. He's a really good leader, and he's done a lot good things for us. He's certainly made us have the ability to do a lot of things, but he can go forward and cover. He can do it all."

Q: Khalil Mack said offenses are doing things to challenge the defensive discipline. Are you seeing that as well?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, Khalil is smart, Khalil's a smart guy. That's the whole thing with defense, it's all about discipline. It's all about angles, it's all about leverage, it's all about tackling. It's all about the fundamentals of the game and really getting down to the nitty-gritty of being sharp and smart and playing together. It's an ultimate team game, it's just not one. There's an A-gap, there's a B-gap, there's a C-gap, there's over the top, everybody's connected to a successful play and that play has to be successful consistently over a period of 70 plays. Again, everybody's watching every single play. So, you have to really understand the consistency and the guys playing together and then you have young guys playing with older guys and I think that it's just important that our consistency level, at a high level, will certainly pick up."

Q: Is it concerning that the effort is there and the results are not? Is it concerning at all like, this is your best and that's not really good enough?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "I'm not sure what your question is, but the guys are playing hard and we need to make the plays consistently. We need to stay on top, we need to tackle, we need to certainly be more clear and everybody wants to talk about communication, but it's about consistently over the duration of the game showing up with a game mindset and winning. You have to win ball games and you have to be sharper. We have to be sharper and we have to play better."