



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: How did Dion Jordan do in his first practice today with the team?

Gruden: "You know, pretty much today learning the assignments, getting familiarized with his teammates and we liked what we saw. Today was a more of a controlled practice as we've been doing on Wednesday's. We'll see a lot more tomorrow."

Q: Dion Jordan has a long-standing relationship with Offensive Line Coach Tom Cable. Were you able to talk to him about that at all?

Gruden: "You know it's good to have some background on him. Most importantly is that he takes advantage of this opportunity and we help him realize his potential. But we have some good intelligence on him and most importantly we're happy to have him and we're eager to get ready for the Bengals."

Q: Is it overly ambitious to think Jordan could play Sunday?

Gruden: "Yeah I think so, but we're going to keep an open mind. We're at that point in the season where you know we're going to have to get somebody ready to play. So, we're going to try to fast-track him and get him out there as soon as possible."

Q: It looked like you had most of your guys out there today. Did you come out of the mini Bye pretty good?

Gruden: "Yeah, I think so. I mean we were pretty strategic on Monday. We used that as a day to familiarize our team with the Bengals and we also used Monday to fast track guys like [D.J.] Swearinger, and [Will] Compton, and [Erik] Magnuson, some of the guys we just signed, and get our young players some reps. Look, we are what we are. We got some band aids and we're using everything we got."

Q: How is Lamarcus Joyner doing?

Gruden: "I don't know how Joyner is. I think he's getting better. I would say he's questionable at best right now for the game."

Q: How impressed are you by how well your rookies have been performing?

Gruden: "It's a good thing we've got those rookies. That's about all I'll say. I'm proud of them. I'm really pleased with their work ethic, and the way that they work in their approach to the game is special, but we got to finish. We don't want to count statistics. Who cares about that stuff right now? We've got a lot of football left."

Q: You guys are getting Josh Mauro back. What did you miss with him out the last few weeks?

Gruden: "You know he's just, he's a really good run defender. He's a good teammate. He plays hard. You know what you're getting. So, you know, you miss a reliable pro football player at a position where it's hard to find them."

Q: Do you expect to have a representative at Colin Kaepernick's workout?

Gruden: "I don't know. I'm going to answer questions about the Bengals."



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Q: Have you had to remind your guys that this is the NFL and anyone can beat anyone and not to overlook the Bengals?

Gruden: "No, we've had a tough season. We've had tough moments around here so we're familiar with tough moments. We've got a lot of respect for the Bengals. You ever heard of Evansville basketball team? They just went in to Lexington and beat the number one team last night now. So, this is pro sports. This is the National Football League. I don't really care about anybody's record. We've got a lot to prove. We've got to keep getting better and keep working hard and hopefully we can find a way to win another game."

Q: Do you use examples such as Evansville beating Kentucky and the Falcons beating the Saints to motivate your guys in games like this?

Gruden: "Yeah, I mean you know there's plenty of examples out there. You've just got to remind some of the young people that you can't believe everything you read and you can't believe everything you hear these days. If you don't respect Geno Atkins and Carlos Dunlap, if you don't think Will Jackson and Joe Mixon are great players, then you better get some film and look at it."

Q: You guys saw Ryan Finley at the Senior Bowl. What did you guys think of him?

Gruden: "Yeah we liked [Ryan] Finley. We really liked Finley. Of course, I like all quarterbacks as has been well documented. The guy is more athletic than we thought. He's really accurate. He's got some leadership, and he's got prototype size and he's a quick learner. So, I'm sure he's going to be able to handle a lot of football that they give him."

Q: Has Benson Mayowa exceeded expectations this season?

Gruden: "Well, he's got more sacks than a lot of the great sack artists that's out there. I think he's got seven or eight sacks, if that's what we're measuring the great one's by. I'm really happy to have the guy. I mean, he's a guy that not only can rush the passer, but he's Benny and the Jets I call him. You know, he brings the jets. He really energizes the room. He gives us a veteran that has been trained by the best. I think playing for Rod Marinelli in Dallas, he brings a certain type of energy level to our defensive line that I really enjoy being around. I'm happy for his success. Hopefully he can continue to get home."

Quarterback Derek Carr

Q: You were 0-9 once, what do you remember about what that felt like and how desperate you were to get a win?

Carr: "You feel like everything is against you because for the fans, sometimes for older players, they don't see any light at the end of the tunnel. They just see what's in front of them at the moment and it's hard man. It's tough and one thing I'll say though is, if you can grind through those moments, work really hard, stick to your process, when the good moments come around it makes you thankful for those other moments. It's really hard, because every day you're going in there, giving it everything you got and you haven't won a game, it's frustrating. I lost my first 10 games of my career and I'm thankful I'm still in this league for that, but you just keep working hard and you don't worry about what anybody says. You make sure you listen to your coaches and you make sure you give it everything that you have every day, and then when the good times come it feels a lot better."



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Q: You have an idea of how they are feeling...

Carr: "Oh, yeah. Absolutely. I've been there and a lot of those guys have been on some winning teams. Some good playoff teams. I can imagine they are a little frustrated, but they are all professionals and they're going to bring it."

Q: The fact that you've been there before, does that give you the opportunity to realize that anything can happen in the NFL and not to overlook this team?

Carr: "Oh, yeah. You know I never look at stats or records, I just turn the film on and see what I have to see. This team that we are playing is talented everywhere. They got a great football team, they got great coaches that have come from great places. They are in the middle of installing their system. They are in the middle of trying to figure out what offense and defense with their personnel that they are trying to do and all those kinds of things, they are in the middle of that. So, who says it wouldn't click this week, right? And so, I don't care about records, man. I prepare every game as if this is the game and so there is no, 'They haven't won a game...'. I don't care how many games they have or haven't won, they got Pro Bowlers all over their football team and they are going to bring it, that's for sure."

Q: Why do you think you have been so good on third down?

Carr: "I mean, the coaches putting together a good plan. I'm just here to do my part, which our guys are winning on their routes. I have time to throw, we are picking up the blitzes. It's a team game. There is so much that goes into it. We've just been really good as a whole with our process from our coaches putting together a plan, our lineman picking up blitzes and our guys winning on routes."

Q: Is part of it setting things up with success on early downs, especially with Josh Jacobs and the way he has run the ball too?

Carr: "Yeah. Third-and-three in this league is a lot different than third-and-eight, that's for sure. It gets a lot crazier, it gets a lot more exotic. I've shown some of my buddies some of the third-and-eight blitzes in this league and they have no clue how you put that in on Madden. That's why I said, 'This isn't a video game.' It's a different game when you get to those longer distances, mid-to-longer distances. You see stuff. People are coming out of the ground sometimes. It feels like they are playing with 12 at times and these defensive coaches are too smart and so you got to give them a lot of credit, but we give our offensive line and Josh [Jacobs] a lot of credit for staying efficient in the run game and in our quick passing game that everyone loves so much."

Q: Teams have done a lot to try and take Darren Waller out a little bit and his receptions have gone down. He doesn't seem to care because now Hunter Renfrow is catching passes and he's good with that. And you have Josh Jacobs who couldn't have been happier with Alec Ingold getting his touchdown. All that teamwork you have going, how special has that been?

Carr: "It is so special and it's very rare nowadays. We do not care about fantasy numbers, we do not care about stats, we don't care about anything but winning. And if they are going to take [Darren] Waller away the way, we are going to have to win games is for someone else to step up and win their matchup. If they are going to take the pass game away, myself and our pass game, then Josh has to win it with our offensive line. If they want to take Josh away then our guys have to win outside. We as a team, we have such a good group of skill position guys that do not care about that stuff and, as you know, that's rare especially nowadays when everything is on social media. If you don't get enough fantasy points, people are tweeting you and all this kind of stuff. I promise you no one on our team cares



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about that stuff even a little bit. We care about each other, we care about seeing each other succeed. That's why if you ever watch our team, whenever someone scores a touchdown you don't see anyone on the field like, 'Man, that should have been my ball or man, that should have been me.' Nobody cares about that stuff. We just cared that our buddy scored and we are going to win the football game."

Q: You talked about you not caring about the Bengals record, you just see what's on film and prepare for the game. Have you had that talk with younger players?

Carr: "No. I think our coaches do a good job of that. Our coaches have been in this league a long time. We look at just last night, young Kentucky, No. 1 team in the nation lost to someone no one thought they'd lose to, right? You watched the Saints, who were 7-1, they lose to the Falcons who everyone has written off. This is the NFL. This is not high school football, it's not even college football. It doesn't matter what the spread is or who's picked to win. I think we've been picked to lose every game since I've been here. Like, it doesn't matter at all. You just got to show up and you got to play. And I don't expect Cincinnati to come out here and just roll over. Those guys are professional athletes and they are really good professional athletes. They don't get enough credit. I think people sometimes look at an 0-9 team and they play Madden and see that their ratings are going down, but when they turn the film on people that play football know how good the Bengals are."

Q: Those are the exact two instances Head Coach Jon Gruden used also, so is it fair to say that those have been discussed?

Carr: "No. Those are the same ones? (laughter) I promise it wasn't. That's how I tell you he's rubbing off on me."