



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

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

**Opening Statement:** “Good day, good day. It’s always good when a team learns how to bounce back from time off. We had yesterday off, came out here today and had, I thought, a good solid practice. Not perfect, we have a lot of things to get better at, but the energy level was good. I thought we got going right away and a good, competitive practice.”

**Q: Do you get the sense that the players are ready to see another team?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Oh, they’re definitely ready to see another team. You know, it’s that time in camp and we welcome seeing new schemes and new players and new ways of doing things. You really like to test some of your principles anyway and things you do and make sure they hold up and they’re as good as you think they are or maybe they need some work. So, certainly, a little bit of both are going to come out of these games.”

**Q: What is your game plan going into the first preseason game in terms of what your team can gain from it?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Well, we just want to be crisp and play good football. We’ve really worked hard at eliminating silly pre-snap errors that good football teams don’t make. So, we’re going to look to see that and get a chance to do it for the first time against another opponent. So, that’s the big thing. Obviously, we stress effort first in everything that we do. So, we want to see great effort from our football team and try and play everybody. Everybody that’s here in camp, we’d like to get a look at them and this is a game that everybody should play. Everybody that’s ready to play should play and hopefully we can get that done.”

**Q: Will the starters play one or two series?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I mean you know, when you get into playing time, we’re not dead set on it yet. But, the typical way these first preseason games go is the first group will play [to the] end of the first quarter, no more than a quarter probably, and then we’ll get a good look at everybody else on the roster.”

**Q: Dewey and Dexter McDonald seem to be having a good camp...**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I think you’re right. I think the McDonald boys, both of them, Dexter and Dewey, no relation, but they’ve both had a nice camp. They’ve taken advantage of the time in the offseason, they’ve made improvement and they’re pushing for a spot. They’re right in the mix in the competition in the back end and doing a nice job for us.”

**Q: Will you be using the video tablets for the preseason games?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah.”

**Q: Do you like using the video tablets?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Well, I kind of agree with what [Carolina Panthers Head Coach] Ron Rivera said about it when he talked about all the game planning and all the work we do during the week. The still shots are enough information really, you know. That’s part of game planning, to create things that people can’t handle. And then, if you’re able to view it on a tablet, you review the whole play, you can kind of teach on the run and maybe make a problem go away sooner than Monday after. You like to let a team, if you have something on them, you like to have them figure it out on Monday. I think that’s what he’s talking about. If you have something on an opponent and you’re wearing them out with it, they’ll have a better chance of better opportunity to fix it by having video. Look, we’ll continue to adapt. The league is looking for new ways to keep it fresh and exciting. At some point I’m sure they’ll be showing the fans what we’re doing down there on the sideline and probably have somebody send a link to Madden video game that we could use in that situation. So, we’ll see.”



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**Q: When you hear people yelling for the Raiders to stay in Oakland, what does it tell you about the fans?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, they see the suit and they must think money. *(laughter)* So, if you've got the money that might be up to you. Yeah, we've got great fans that come out every day and it's a good part of our camp that we have largely season ticketholders that are here, that's who get to come in, family and friends and season ticketholders. So, a very supportive group and it's always great to see them."

**Q: Could the yelling from fans regarding Vegas ever become a distraction?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I don't think that our team is distracted by the energy that the fans bring. I think it's a pretty good thing for us. We enjoy them being out here, the interaction we get. So yeah, I think it's a positive for us."

**Q: How cool is it that Howie Long is here to talk to the team today?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's awesome. Howie is going to come talk to the team tonight. We invited him to camp. He was nice enough to take time out of his schedule and come up here and visit with us. You know, he's one of the all-time greats. He still looks like he can play, big old studly guy. So, obviously, he's still in the football world. He calls games on FOX on the weekends and does a great job with that. But, I look forward to him coming in here and just talking about, you know, one of the reasons we invited him, it's about the big guys in the trenches. It's about what we get done in the trenches and I want him to speak to that, some of those topics. So, we'll look forward to hearing from him tonight."

**Q: How do you think Shilique Calhoun is coming along?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, he's doing fine. He's working hard. He's fitting in. He's doing a nice job. The things we're asking him to do I think are fairly natural to him. I think he's done a pretty good job of picking things up."

**Q: During the preseason, how much do you want a guy like Latavius Murray to be involved or do you want to limit the amount he gets hit?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "You're always balancing. For each guy and for your team, you're always balancing the work you'd like to get in with the fresh, healthy guy that opens up for the season and has a healthy, productive season. So there's always that fine line of push and pull. Push to get the work you need and pull back and make sure they're fresh. We'll battle that like we all do around the league. We have a plan going in, and we'll adjust it as we need to. I'm not going to really spend a lot of time speaking to one specific guy. I think as a team we need to be responsible in trying to get our horses to the starting gate. At the same time, we have a lot of work we need to do. We want to be a crisp football team that opens up and plays well right away."

**Q: How would you describe Derek Carr's growth from his rookie year to now and how would you describe him as a leader?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well I think he's natural as a leader, first of all. I think he's been around football for a long time. He's a good football player and he works at it. The progression that he's making, talented guys that work hard will improve. There's no question that he took a significant step forward last year and we think there's a lot of room for growth in front of him. We're excited about continuing to develop him."

**Q: Based on what you've seen in camp so far, have your top four receivers changed from last year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "You know I don't like to get into specific depth chart questions. I would just say I'm glad they returned. We have a good core of receivers there and then we have some young guys right now that are jockeying for position. It's early in camp. Some guys have started fast. We'll see what happens with other guys. The games haven't gotten here yet. We'll continue the evaluation. I'm pleased that we were able to return the top four guys from last year and now we're looking to see who might fit in in terms of complimenting that group."



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### **Q: What have you seen from the undrafted guys competing at the wide receivers position?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I've seen some improvement from a couple of guys in particular. We'll see how they sustain it. I think we have a couple of guys that have had a nice beginning to camp. For us the key is what do they do when it's real, when they're going against another opponent? When they're not as familiar with the coverages they're seeing, when they're having to adjust to what they're getting during the game. I feel good about the whole process. We'll continue that evaluation and obviously it goes up a notch when you get into the games."

### **Q: What's your assessment of this team compared to last year's at this point in camp?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "The best way to answer that is to say I think more people here understand what we're after, what we're about, what we believe in; less unknowns. Beyond that, we're excited just like we were last year at this point. When you're three days out, you're looking forward to an opportunity to go up against another opponent."

### **Q: What are your thoughts on Sebastian Janikowski and his ability to stay in the league for so long and stay consistent?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Guys that play that long, one, are very talented and two, have a great work ethic. There's just no other way. We had one of the all-time greats last year in [Charles] Woodson. I've been around guys that have been able to play and if you're able to play 10, 11, 12 [years] and up, that means you've learned how to really do things right to protect your body, work hard, be a great teammate. You have to have talent. You have to have kind of that grit and 'stick-to-it-iveness.' He's got all of that."

### **Q: How unique is it to have the lines dealing with martial art hand moves? Or is that something you did when you were play?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No. Different teams do it. I did some work when I was a player as well, hand-to-hand combat. We actually have a specialist here that's been with us throughout camp that works on hand-to-hand combat. It's a big part of what we believe in. You're in the trenches, you need to find an edge where you can. It's not always being stronger. Sometimes it's knowing how to use the leverage, how to get your hands in the right spots at the right times. So it's something we believe in. Shilique is not the only one doing it. I think it's very powerful for them. I think it helps them improve their skill. Getting off blocks and getting on the edge of people, it's a skill that you develop and it's not just about being big and strong and running fast. There's a skill you have to develop to sack the quarterback and get off blocks and make plays in this league. We're working hard to develop those skills."