



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

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

**Opening Statement:** “We have a real good team. Had a bad day yesterday. What’s most important – win or lose – what’s most important is how you get past the last one and get on to the next one. There’s no question in my mind, I think where it starts is each man... When things don’t go the way you want, each man looks and sees what he can do better. We’re going to ask each guy, every player, every coach, to do something, do one thing better this week than you did last week. Collectively, we have a really good process. Get back to work and I expect to be better. This is a group I believe in. I believe we have a good group of men really committed to helping this organization being really strong. So, I’m looking forward to getting back to work. Can’t dismiss the fact that yesterday didn’t go the way we wanted. We are after six games sitting here 4-2, tied at the top of our division. With that, questions?”

#### **Q: Are there tricks to moving past a loss?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “No, not really tricks. I think you just have to get back to work. That’s really the challenge. Sometimes it can be more of a challenge when you have success to get back to work. It’s a little easier to get their attention when it doesn’t go your way. The way yesterday went, we obviously had high hopes, and it didn’t go that way. Little easier to get their attention and get them back on track.”

#### **Q: Can you identify why there are still communication problems?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, we’re spending time on that. We’ll work internally on that kind of stuff. It’s clear that we’re not operating the way that we need to operate to play really good defense. It starts with the communication aspect, from the sideline to the huddle, from the huddle amongst each other out there. Sometimes those problems are actually a little more difficult at home than they are on the road for defense. That’s, again, why we use crowd noise at home. We use crowd noise not only for our offense, we use crowd noise at home when our defense is taking snaps during the week to prepare for how it is different. That’s an area that I can just tell you, that’s one of the areas when that cleans up, it’s going to alleviate a lot of issues that we’re having. That’s why I remain very confident in this football team and our ability to grow as the year goes on. There are young players, and that’s not an alibi, that’s just reality. I think as they gain confidence, they’ll continue to grow and our communication will be better and better.”

#### **Q: Is that coming along maybe a little slower than you would have liked?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I think... It is what it is right now. There’s room to grow there really in a lot of different areas. That’s just one that’s getting a lot of attention right now.”

#### **Q: Has it been a harder process to replace the leaders that were on the team last year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I think the leadership is pretty solid. I think the group’s working hard. It sticks together. I don’t sense any fraying whatsoever. I think the guys are a good, close group. We’re going to be better as we go. Fortunately, we have been good enough as a team to be 4-2 sitting here after six games. Clearly, we’re not pretending that we don’t have work to do. We know we have work to do and we expect to be better.”

#### **Q: Does the fact that you were able to turn it around defensively last year give you confidence about being able to do so this year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I think we do have a mix. We have some veteran guys that have been through it before and understand how you stay the course and work on the basic fundamentals of what you need to get done and it will improve. So yeah, I think there’s a combination of some of the veterans and then some of the younger guys are going to get better and better with each rep.”

#### **Q: Will Mario Edwards Jr. start practicing this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I hope that he can begin running on the side. He hasn’t done that yet. We think he’ll begin to run on the side this week. We’ll bring him into practice as soon as he’s cleared.”



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### **Q: Will Latavius Murray be able to practice this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, that's getting better. I just don't really have much more to share on that than I know he's anxious to return. He's definitely better, so it's just a matter of when he feels like he can fully participate, push off full speed, be ready to go."

### **Q: Have you felt like you've missed Murray's style of running the past two weeks?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, I think you miss any good players that you had that aren't there. I think you miss Lee [Smith] a little bit. You miss Latavius a little bit. Sure, that's all part of it, but we have good players. We have other players that can get things done. We expect to be able to continue on with the guys that we have."

### **Q: Would you have liked to see more carries from Jamize Olawale with the weather conditions being how they were?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, I would have liked to have seen more carries overall. And really, the way you get more carries is convert more third downs. We didn't stay ahead of the chains the way we'd like. They were also able to possess the ball more than we'd like. So, it's one of those deals where when you look at running the football and running it well and getting everybody their carries and getting everybody involved. Typically you're going to do some of the things outside of the running game to help that happen; converting third downs, playing better defense, the special teams component, all of it. Yeah, the weather was one where you'd expect your big 'mudders' to be more involved and also getting more opportunities to run anybody in the game."

### **Q: Are you impressed with the game Amari Cooper had in the weather conditions?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, he looked pretty comfortable in the sloppy conditions, played really well for us. Ends up with double digits for us in receptions and really strong, especially in the first half."

### **Q: Does he address problems in his game really well?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Sure. He's very prideful and wants to be a great player in the league. I mean, he got a clear example of really working the footwork on the sideline, how that could have gotten him a couple more touchdowns. It's always been something we work on, but I think it got extra focus this week. He's a good football player, so some of the things he's really focused on, we've benefited from that."

### **Q: Would you like to get the tight ends more involved in the passing game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Can we? Yeah. I think offensive flow, just to get the ball moving, I think you'd like to involve all of your guys. We spread it around pretty good; I think Derek [Carr] is pretty good at that. He doesn't really lock in on one guy. Yeah, the tight ends are definitely a part of the progression and like I said, more opportunities give you chances to throw to the tight end, to run the ball, do the things you want. You've got to move the chains in order to do that."

### **Q: Did they do something to try to take away Michael Crabtree?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Not really, not really. It's kind of more what we're talking about. Michael's very much in our plans all the time. It just worked out where the progressions took it to 'Coop' a little bit. He was open and he made a lot of plays. Really, that first drive was really tremendous in the weather the way it was, and then I thought we kind of sputtered a little bit from there and then the second half, we really went cold."

### **Q: Was it nice to get that spark from Jalen Richard in the return game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, yeah. It's great. If you look at what he's been able to accomplish six games into his rookie year, it's pretty amazing. So, I know he'd like to have a play or two back, but he's made an impact on our football team to start the year."



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**Q: Are there really any positives about leaving at the end of this week for an extended period of time?**

**Coach Del Rio:** *(laughing)* I don't know about part. For us, we're going to embrace the challenges that are in front of us. So, next step for us is the road trip to Jacksonville to take on the Jaguars and then stay down that week instead of going back and forth. Try and take some of that transit time, some of that air time out of it and allow us to sit there and get our work in. We're going to turn it into whatever positive we can. I think the positive is not as many hours in the plane at altitude."

**Q: Have you ever been on a team that's spent two consecutive weeks away from home in between games?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I've really never done that, no. I know that more and more teams are starting to do that. We never had a back-to-back, when I was in Jacksonville, where it worked out where we would come out here and stay. So, I think more and more teams are starting to do it, recognize the toll that it takes on the team to travel like that. I know Atlanta came out after I think playing in Denver and stayed out. So, I think more and more teams are looking to do that. We're doing whatever we can to try and get an advantage and try and take some of the strain of flying across the country out of it and we do a lot of that from being right here on the West Coast."