



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Fast Friday type approach. On our way traveling down to Dallas tomorrow to play a good football team at their place. Really, this is a critical time in the evaluation stage, so really important looks for us to get as we round into the final kind of chapter of the preseason, or leading up to it. A lot of important work ahead of us, but excited to go down there and compete. Looking forward to it.”

Q: What does Donald Penn being back mean to the team right now?

Coach Del Rio: “It means we have more depth and it’s good to have him back.”

Q: Will he play with the first unit on Saturday?

Coach Del Rio: “He may get a few reps.”

Q: Will most of his work this week come with the second, third units?

Coach Del Rio: “We’ll get him a few reps. We’re not going to play him long, but we’ll probably get him a few reps in the game.”

Q: What kind of shape did he come back in?

Coach Del Rio: “There’s a difference between game conditioning and football conditioning and being in shape. He’s in shape. He’s a veteran guy. He understands what he needs to do. So physically, he’s in condition now. It’s a matter of him going through the timing of getting his body in-sync with the demands of what we do. We’ll ease him in, give him a little bit this weekend. We gave him a little bit through the week of practice and we’ll be ready to roll.”

Q: Has Marshall Newhouse started working on the right side?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, he’s worked on the right, really, the whole time – left and right. So, [offensive line coach] Mike [Tice] continues to mix that. The focus went from mostly right to mostly left, but throughout the offseason he’s done both.”

Q: What have you seen from David Sharpe and Jylan Ware from the beginning until now?

Coach Del Rio: “Good young players. We’re excited about both of them and they’re working at it, so that’s what we’re asking.”

Q: Will we see Obi Melifonwu play on Saturday? His activity level seemed to increase this week.

Coach Del Rio: “I thought Obi had a good week of practice and we look forward to seeing him Saturday.”

Q: Is the plan to have the starters play into the third quarter?

Coach Del Rio: “We’ll see how it goes. The plan is to get a good, solid amount of work in. How long we have to go to get that done, we’ll determine that.”

Q: Is it awkward at all to play the Cowboys in the preseason and play them in the regular season? You did the same thing last year against Tennessee.

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, a little different that by the time we play them toward the end of the year, the last month of the year, that we will have seen a lot of each other on tape, so I don’t know that that’s as big of an issue as it was maybe against Tennessee where we played them early. Obviously, it is an opponent. It’s a good, talented team, a couple of physical teams that go after each other, will have a little fun going at it.”

Q: Is it kind of a sigh of relief to get Donald Penn back now as opposed to a couple weeks into the regular season?

Coach Del Rio: “To me, it kind of is what it is. I don’t get too emotionally wrapped up in that kind of stuff. I just coach the guys that are here. He’s back. Glad to have him back and going to work.”



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Q: What's your philosophy on the value of joint practices? Do you think there is value in it? Was there thought about doing some this camp?

Coach Del Rio: "We did not want to have it this year. There is value. When it's the appropriate time, then we'll do it."

Q: What dictated this year not being a good year for you guys to do a joint practice?

Coach Del Rio: "Just really nothing that I care to talk about publicly, but it's our choice."

CB David Amerson

Q: In what way has John Pagano influenced the defense?

Amerson: "I think he's definitely added more detail to our defense, especially in the secondary and especially within the last week or so. He's definitely cleared a lot of things up for us. He's very knowledgeable at the DB position, whether it be corner or safety, and how to work together, how to play things. I think he's definitely done a great job of clearing things up, especially for younger guys."

Q: When you say clearing things up, has there been gray areas?

Amerson: "Nowadays, offenses have a lot they can give you. It's one thing if someone comes and lines up in a bunch formation and OK boom, you've got this. But people start shifting, moving around and different things like that. There are different calls and you have to understand what everybody else is doing and what's going on in order to work together."

Q: So he's sort of breaking it down?

Amerson: "Right, right, especially for younger guys including myself. Really making it so we can go out there and play fast. I think he's done a great job of doing that."

Q: As a defense, are you looking to get out there in the first series and shut it down after the way the first two games went?

Amerson: "Yeah, we definitely want to go out there and do better than last week. I think last week was a lot of little things that guys weren't being detailed on and it ended up costing us. We just want to go out there before the season starts, luckily it's preseason and that's what you play these games for, but we want to go out there in the next game and eliminate all of the mental errors. It's one thing if a guy just beats you off a good route or doing things like that, but when you have little mistakes like your eyes not in the right place, you're beating yourself. You want to eliminate those. You want to just get out there and play fast."

Q: What have you seen in the preseason from the group?

Amerson: "We have to get better. Definitely have to get better. We can't allow guys to come in the opening drive and go right down the field and score. That's not what we're about at all. Like you said, it's preseason and we know that. We know we have to improve so we can go into the regular season where we want to be. That's what we're looking forward to doing on Saturday."

Q: Are there some positives to having this film in the preseason?

Amerson: "That's the benefits of having the preseason. I think you just compare it to last year. You look at our first two games when it's live and ready, when it really counts, and we started out our first two games on the wrong foot. We started making adjustments from then and getting better. All people could think about was those first two games. Those are in the stat books and those mess up your numbers and your rankings. We're just having some complications early in preseason. Hopefully we can get it adjusted now, get them fixed and go into the season on the right page."



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Q: Karl Joseph has taken some leaps since last season. What have you seen from him, having played beside him year one?

Amerson: "He's always been a physical demon. You know he's going to come up and hit you. I think the biggest improvement I've seen from Karl is he's a lot faster with calls and seeing stuff faster. He's getting down in his run gaps real quick, not laying back and being late and clearing it out for the corner. I'm watching him grow, as I'm playing with him. My second year with him, watching him grow and improve, he's coming along not just physically but mentally. That's the biggest step I've seen him take thus far in his second year."

Q: How many times in practice have you thought you had Michael Crabtree covered and no way he can catch it, but then he somehow does?

Amerson: "That's what he does. He does a great job of making tough catches. You can be on a one-on-one play and think 'I've got this' but you've got D.C. [Derek Carr] throwing him the ball, so he's putting it in perfect spots. That's what separates Crabtree from a lot of receivers. He makes some tough catches. I can count times where I had my hand on the ball trying to rip it out but he has a real strong grip and is able to come through with the catch. That's what makes Crabtree Crabtree."

Q: Did you ever guard him when you were with Washington?

Amerson: "The game that we played San Francisco, I didn't play that game, so I didn't."

Q: What's Gareon Conley been like in meeting rooms?

Amerson: "He's been real in-tune to everything. Always taking notes, asking questions, paying attention outside on the practice field. I've told him and a couple of older guys have told him to stay in-tune. Control what you can control. Physically, you're hurt right now but mentally, you've got to be locked in and getting the mental reps to be prepared. He's doing all the right things. I think as far as what he can do right now, he's doing a great job."

Q: Do you think he's pretty anxious to get out there?

Amerson: "I can only imagine. Just being an athlete, I think it's hard to go out there and watch other people do what you want to be doing."

Q: Based on what you saw from Gareon from the spring, what do you think the secondary will have once he returns?

Amerson: "A solid bump-and-run corner. I haven't really seen him like in game tackling and stuff, but I know he has the size. He's long, gets his hands on receivers and has great ball skills. I think he's going to be a great addition."

Q: How has Sean Smith handled the distractions?

Amerson: "Sean's a professional. Sean has been doing it nine years now. I think he definitely knows how to handle those things and not let the off the field issues or whatever come on to the field. I think he's done a great job. Nobody has really been talking about it much or bringing up. We come in here and try to focus on football. He's done a great job at that and controlling what he can control."

WR Cordarrelle Patterson

Q: Is Jon Feliciano going to take your job as kick returner after his effort last week?

Patterson: "Yeah, he's been doing a good job at it. That week, he had about 18 yards, so I feel like I need to give him the job." *(laughter)*

Q: How has your comfort grown within the offense after being here throughout the offseason?

Patterson: "Just being around these guys, they will never let you fail around here. Each and every day, come in work you know. Everybody is smiling and happy, a great environment. I feel like nobody will let you down. If you need



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help with something, we spend extra time with it. We have great receivers out here. We help each other out. So, I feel good about it.”

Q: What have been your early impressions of Todd Downing?

Patterson: “I like him a lot. He’s not the type of coach that’s going to yell at you, but he wants you to get the job done. If you don’t get the job done, he’ll give you that look to tell you to step it up. The things he’s been doing in helping Derek [Carr] out and all of those quarterbacks, it’s impressive. A guy like that just getting his opportunity and a guy like me coming in and just wanting to help and do whatever I can to help each guy out.

Q: Do you have to have a chip on your shoulder to be a great kick returner?

Patterson: “I think it’s about those 10 guys that are in front of you. If you don’t trust those 10 guys you won’t have a good unit out there. Just building this trust each and every week, even though I haven’t been returning kicks, just building that trust with those 10 guys, just keep building and building. This week, hopefully I’ll get the chance to go out there and show what I can do.”

Q: How do you make the decision to bring the ball out or take a knee in the end zone?

Patterson: “My decision: I’m always bringing it out. *(laughter)* I’ve always been aggressive. I’m a guy that, I want to make a play unless coach looks at me and is like, ‘Just take a knee,’ and the situation in the game is that we don’t need it, I’ll just take a knee. But, 100 percent I want to take it out, no matter what.”

Q: What would it take for you to not take the ball out?

Patterson: “*(laughter)* I have bobbed the ball before, I brought it out and scored. So that’s not a factor. It all depends on what coach wants. If he don’t want me to bring it out, I’m not going to bring it out.”

Q: If coach doesn’t tell you to down it, you’re pretty much bringing it out every time?

Patterson: “It’s the green light for me. Every time the ball is kicked, it’s the green light.”

Q: Is there a certain standard you have for where you want to be during a kick return?

Patterson: “Anything past the 25 is a plus. They kick a touchback, we start at the 25. So, anything over the 25 I feel like is a plus for the offense. But a guy like me, I want to score every time. I don’t even want the offense out there. I want to go out and score each time I can. But, it’s not always going to happen like that. So, if I get past the 25 or 30 I feel good about myself.”

Q: Did you see the missed field goal returned for a touchdown over the weekend and does that get you going seeing that?

Patterson: “Of course, man. *(laughter)* A guy like that, I know he’s happy. Hats off to that guy. Every chance you get back there, missed field goal, you get back there and catch it, just try to run to the sideline and just try to get a touchdown.”

Q: In that sense, you’re not running against guys that are used to covering returns.

Patterson: “You’re running against the big guys. *(laughter)* It’s an advantage. It’s funny, because I think my rookie year they kicked me the ball one time, I had an opportunity to score and I went the wrong way and it’s been haunting me ever since. *(laughter)* So, I have to make up for that.”

Q: Have the coaches kind of held you back from returning to not show any of your stuff too soon or is it more just giving some other guys looks right now?

Patterson: “I would say just giving other guys looks. I’ve been doing it for four years now, going on five. That’s my job. Until somebody beats me out, I’m going to return kicks my whole life. Whenever coach wants me back there, I’ll be there. If he wants me back there this week, I’ll be back there. If not, if he wants to wait until Week 1, just going to wait. So, whatever he wants.”



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Q: Have you been campaigning for this to be the week you return kicks?

Patterson: *"(laughter)* I say this week every week. If he wants me to chill and rest, I'll chill and rest. But, when Week 1 comes, I'll be ready."

Q: Did coming to the Raiders feel like a natural move?

Patterson: "I know the Raiders still hate me for returning the kick on them a couple years ago. *(laughter)* I hear guys in the locker room all the time say that they could have caught me, but I didn't see anybody within 10 feet of me. *(laughter)* So I always give them trouble about that. But, when they were interested, I came and visited. I had a great visit. Like I said, it felt right. It felt like I needed to be here and I wanted to be here. I had to talk to my family. I told them before I made my decision and I made it as soon as I knew it was the right decision."

Q: Do you have a sense of how you might be used offensively?

Patterson: "Yeah, but I think we'll wait to see that. Todd's doing a heck of a job putting a lot of pressure on me to learn this position, to learn that position and I kind of like it. I'm embracing it and I know my role. Each chance I get to make a play, I just need to keep going out there and show what I can do."