



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: What are your thoughts going into the first game?

Carr: "Just play my heart out. That's every time, whether it's preseason, regular season, playoffs, Super Bowl, whatever. Hopefully we'll get there, but no matter what it is, I'm going to play my heart out, whether it's one play or 90 plays. Anytime you put an NFL jersey on, put a helmet on, it's time to go. I think that going into this one, obviously, we probably won't play a full game, but we'll play somewhere in between there and it'll be fun."

Q: Is there anything specific you'd like to accomplish in this game?

Carr: "Just being clean. Really getting out there and being clean. Just be clean. When you go out there, you just don't want to have pre-snap penalties, all those things. You want to play clean football. There's obviously going to be mistakes first time playing in a game and those kinds of things, but you always want to make sure you're playing clean football and you always look back and make sure that we're better, practice included. Are we getting better? Is there a correction we made in practice that when it comes up in the preseason you do it the right way? Those kind of things."

Q: How have you seen the offensive line gel with Kelechi Osemele coming in and Menelik Watson coming back?

Carr: "Oh my goodness. They're a close bunch. I mean they're joking with each other all the time., making fun of each other nonstop. They sit together while they're eating. Obviously, most of them room together. That's a close, tight-knit group and that comes from their leadership in [offensive line] coach [Mike] Tice and [assistant offensive line coach] Tim [Holt]. Both (of) their coaches in there are really close. It rubs off on the players. It rubs off in that room. They're just one big unit, man. It's really cool to see."

Q: Karl Joseph picked you off today.

Carr: "Yeah, finally." *(laughing)*

Q: What have you seen from him as he's learning?

Carr: "Great player. Karl is a great player. I'm excited that he's on our team and healthy. He looks great, man. He's going to be a great player. He did a great job. Reggie [Nelson] is teaching him really well back there. [Assistant defensive backs] coach [Rod] Woodson, 'M-Rob' [defensive backs coach Marcus Robertson], they're doing a great job with him, [Defensive Coordinator] coach [Ken] Norton, Jr. They're teaching him what it takes to be a great safety. He's going to be a great player for us. I think that he keeps working hard. Hopefully he won't ever get me again *(laughing)*, but he's not there yet so I'm going to keep throwing at him. Guys like Reggie and 'C-Wood' [Charles Woodson], I didn't even throw it at them. Karl's not there yet, but hopefully one day."

Q: Do you think it's good overall that there's a good back and forth with the defense and offense?

Carr: "Oh yes, absolutely. When it's a play, especially the play that he made, I mean he jumps five feet off the ground, snags it 10 feet up in the air. I'm good with that because I know that I don't have to throw against him. It makes me excited. Same thing with Reggie, Sean [Smith], DJ [Hayden], D.A. [David Amerson], those guys. When they make good plays like that, the initial reaction is like, 'Dang it.' You want it to work, but then you have to sit back and realize, 'Man, that's our defense.' They're pretty good, you know. So when he made that play, it's always like... I never want to turn the ball over, obviously. But when he went up and made that play, I was extremely happy because if he's not just a hitter and he can do those kinds of things, too, that's really good for our team."

Q: Has it hit you that the talent level on this team is a lot higher than it was one or two years ago?

Carr: "Definitely two years ago, yeah. This team right here talent-wise is very talented, extremely talented. Obviously we've seen most of these guys play and we've seen what they can do and now they're all together on one team. All those things are great. Compared to last year, obviously, we're better. Hopefully our record will show that, what we earn. Talent-wise, absolutely. You can definitely see it. You can definitely feel it with each play the



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competition, how tight the windows are. I mean I had to throw a ball against Sean the other day and the window's this big. If you miss an inch to the left or an inch to the right, it's a pick or incomplete."

Q: So you're conscious of this when you're dropping back?

Carr: "Oh yeah and it just becomes second nature, so I'm not really thinking about it. You just try and be accurate all the time, but you know with a guy like that you can't really miss. Same thing on the other side [with] D.A. [Amerson]. He earned his spot. He earned his contract that he got. We were all excited because we know how good he is because he makes plays like that all the time and makes the windows really hard to throw into."

Q: How often do you hear from fantasy football owners when in public?

Carr: "A lot. *(laughter)* More than you would actually think. Menelik [Watson], how's that watermelon, man? It looks great. *(laughter)* No, I really do, all the time. 'Man, I had you on my fantasy team, can you help me come up with a cool fantasy team name?' I'm like no, not at all. But, yeah, it happens more than you think."

Q: Do your friends and family feel obligated to own you in fantasy leagues?

Carr: "No, gosh no. I told them, they don't have to but they better if they want to win. *(laughter)* No, man, no. I could care less."

Q: How much do you think having additions in the backfield will help Latavius Murray this year?

Carr: "I think that the more good football players you have on a time, it takes pressure off more people, you know? If we have a good run game, it helps the pass game. Same thing, pass game's really well, it opens up the run game. Same thing goes when you break it down now, inside the run game Latavius doesn't need to take 40 carries and get beat up for a game. He can give some of those to someone else and come back fresh after a couple. Those kind of things, you see it on the really good football teams. They always have talent and depth everywhere. So, I think that it will help him, but obviously, time will tell. But, I think it will help."

Q: Do you have the green light to take off and run if there's an opening?

Carr: "Oh yeah. Yeah, definitely. No more stiff arms. *(laughter)* No more stiff arms. My offensive line has instructed me, no more stiff arms. If I do, they just don't want to fight anybody and I don't want to pay their fines."

Q: Are you looking forward to watching the young guys get an opportunity to take the field for the first time?

Carr: "Yeah, that's the exciting thing. Sitting here, I feel like I'm an old man now being in my third year on this team. I feel like a veteran, which in its own right is what it is. But, I sit there and I'm like, 'I really can't wait to watch Johnny Holton play. I really can't wait to watch Jaydon [Mickens] play.' I'm sitting here watching guys on film and in my head I'm like, 'I can't wait to watch them ball out in the preseason,' because they're going to get a lot snaps, a lot of reps. I've tried to mentally get them ready for that, because if they make the team whoever makes the team, when the regular season comes it's not like that. I want them to prove themselves and hopefully be able to take some of those reps."

Q: How has your comfort level changed now that you're in Year 3?

Carr: "Man, it's crazy the jump that's it's been each year. I say it all the time, but 'C-Wood' [Charles Woodson] always told me, from Year 1 to Year 2 is the biggest jump, and then when you hit Year 3, you're just playing ball again. You know, it takes time. It really does. In the NFL, the organizations that are patient with people as you can see, it helps them develop, helps them grow. I came into the right situation where they believed in me and trusted me, had faith in me, and have developed me and let me grow. I got a long way to go, man. I have so many things I need to get better at. I'm not perfect, but I do appreciate being here and being able to be developed into my third year."



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Q: How are you making sure the guys from Fresno State like Kyrie Wilson are noticed?

Carr: "I yell Bulldogs every time he makes a play. We got him up there to sing and I was the only one clapping when he said he was from Fresno State. I definitely don't forget where I came from, that's for sure."

Q: Has the coaching staff handled training camp differently this year because of the maturity and talent?

Carr: "In my perspective, I don't know how anyone else sees it, I think that [Head] Coach [Jack] Del Rio is just Coach Del Rio. He's going to do it how he does it. We have our leadership council meetings and things like that, we'll bring stuff up that we thought could be better last year and like that, and we've seen him incorporate those things, but 90% of it's the same, you know. That 10% where we maybe said, 'Hey what if we did it this way or this way?' he definitely listened and took what the players felt, but he is who he is and we all believe in what he's doing, so we're glad that he doesn't change."

Q: Is there an example of something that he adjusted a little bit?

Carr: "Obviously I don't want to get into his stuff. If he wants to he can."

Q: Silly question, but this is the first time I've seen you practice without black tights, long sleeve tights on. Are you making a conscious effort to show off the arms this year?

Carr: "I'm going to tell you the honest truth, my wife saw a preseason picture of me last year and said, 'You have a horrible tan line right here from your jersey.' So that's why I rolled my sleeves up and didn't wear sleeves this year – that's the only reason. Sounds silly, but I'm going to do what she says and make her happy."

Q: Are there a couple of areas that you want to work on? Is there anything you want to see yourself better at this year?

Carr: "There's not like one tangible thing that I could say I need to do this better or this better, because each situation I can point to a game and say, 'Well in that situation I didn't handle it right but in another situation I did it exactly the way I was supposed to do it. Every situation is different. My thing is, mentally staying sharp and staying critical of myself. My brother always taught me, when you get into the NFL, you criticize yourself harder than anybody else. That way when somebody else says something about you it doesn't even matter and that's what I have done really. I'll miss a throw or do something, I am so tough on myself because I have an expectation of myself. I put in work to make sure that expectation is met and when it's not, it drives me nuts. That's something that my brother taught me at a young age and I just held onto it. There's not just one thing that I need to do, there are a lot of things I need to do to get better. I am going to say the same thing for 15 years, if I ever say, 'No, I got it,' then you guys just tell me to go home because that's wrong."