



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Good, solid way to open the season. I conveyed most of that to you yesterday, how it was a good, solid team effort. All three phases contributed. It was great to see. It was a good start to the season, but just that, just a start. Certainly a lot of work in front of us. Much to do, a big list of things we need to improve on in all three phases. We’ll get busy at work with that. Obviously, the process remains the same about how we attack things and the need to recover from that game. We had guys that played the whole game in some cases for the first time. Certainly there will be some recovery needed throughout this week. Then the preparation leading up to the opportunity here at home against the Jets this weekend.”

Q: What impressed you about the way the defense was able to shut things down after that first drive?

Coach Del Rio: “I think it was pretty solid throughout the day. I think a couple of those things that caused us to not be able to get off the field early, I thought we settled in and did a little better with that later in the ball game. As you saw, it was a lot more effective once you were able to make those plays and get off the field on those third downs. We had the one sack from Khalil [Mack] where the ball came out. We’d like to create turnovers. Neither team really turned it over, so it was even on the turnover battle. We’re always looking for turnovers. We had that shot with Khalil that obviously got called back with the penalty on Bruce [Irvin]. Looking for turnovers, that’s certainly going to be a key for us going forward. I thought overall the effort, the urgency, the attention to detail was really strong.”

Q: Were you pleased with what you saw from the defensive tackles?

Coach Del Rio: “I thought from the first snap Eddie [Vanderdoes] was very strong in there. He’s got a natural feel for pass rush and for being stout in there. He got some real quality snaps in there yesterday. We’ve seen Treyvon [Hester] throughout camp and preseason. He’s slippery in there. He’ll come free and give us some juice inside. I thought Justin [Ellis] played well, too. The tackles were pretty solid for us yesterday.”

Q: Do you feel like you stopped the run effectively?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, a couple quarterback things got away but we kept the backs in check for the most part. We knew that was a key going into that game. They have a big, physical front. They do a nice job with their design and we had to make sure we were on top of things.”

Q: You saw a lot of Marquel Lee and Tyrell Adams. How do you feel those guys played?

Coach Del Rio: “Pretty well. Pretty solid. I think there are some opportunities to do a few things better. In particular, some of the passing situations. The experience was outstanding and we’ll grow from that.”

Q: How important was it for the run defense to get off to a strong start this season?

Coach Del Rio: “I just think, we’re starting our season. It’s time to go. We put in a lot of work in the offseason. We certainly knew we were going to start out with a good opponent, that knew how to run it well, had good backs, good lineman, good design, all that. It was a good test. Each week there’s a new test, new type of approach, new things that you have to game plan for. We’ll get into that as we go, but I thought it was a good start.”

Q: Was the fourth quarter drive where Marshawn Lynch was heavily involved what you envisioned when you signed him?

Coach Del Rio: “Yes. It was great to see and I think even there, there are things we have to do better. It was good, not great. It was good not great, you know? Again, there are things to correct and do better as we go forward. There were definitely some bright spots. Having him in there with his physicality behind our offensive line, that’s a good way to get after people to close it.”

Q: What were your thoughts on the three straight pass plays to Amari Cooper from the 2-yard line?

Coach Del Rio: “One was a reaction to an all-out [blitz]. We had a match up we liked and we just didn’t connect. It could have been a maybe a little better ball, maybe a little better catch. I think both guys tried to take the blame for



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it. So, that's what a good group of guys will do for each other. We elected to approach it that way and if we hit it, nobody's really talking about it. We certainly had our chances there."

Q: What did you see looking back at the offensive start to the year? Was it a good start with some polishing to do?

Coach Del Rio: "Sure, sure. That's what you would expect in a first game I think it was a good, solid start. A lot of good, solid things occurred. The operation, lining up, executing the plays, understanding where you belong, playing together, playing through adversity, all those things are very good. I think we're looking to improve each and every week. There's clearly a laundry list of things we need to do better, but a good place to start."

Q: What did you see from Derek Carr and Amari Cooper? They weren't able to connect as consistently as I'm sure they will throughout the season...

Coach Del Rio: "I'd say that's exactly right. We'll work on it. They're two good players, they'll be fine."

Q: Throughout the course of the year, you find plays that mean more to a team. When you see Marshawn Lynch run over Jurrell Casey, what does that kind of run do for the vibe of the team overall?

Coach Del Rio: "It probably gets the offensive linemen excited more than anything. For me, I'd like to see that guy be blocked in the first place. *(laughing)* I'm glad Marshawn was able to lower his pads and make it a positive run for us. He brings a certain mentality. He brings a certain toughness. We saw glimpses of that. We're not looking for Marshawn to carry us or carry our team. We're looking for us to be a team, and he's a piece of it, he's a part of it. That's really the way we operate. But certainly it's nice to see that he brings that hammer at the end of a ballgame, the ability to close out."

Q: Vadal Alexander was rotated in on the third series. Was it a reaction to something that happened with Marshall Newhouse in the first couple of series or was that part of the plan?

Coach Del Rio: "No, part of the plan. Our right tackles rotated early and then settled in and Marshall played the rest of the afternoon and then we rotated at right cornerback as well with TJ [Carrie] and Sean [Smith]. Overall, I thought they both played pretty well. Sean, in particular, had a really good game. It was good to see those guys settle in and play well."

Q: Karl Joseph had a big play in the end zone with that pass defended. What did you see from him yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "Very active. Did a lot of nice things. I think he was our leading tackler yesterday. I thought overall as a defense, we tackled well yesterday. We spent a lot of time on fundamentals in camp. I think we had three missed tackles on the day and that's good; you're playing good defense, you're tackling well, leveraging and tackling. Those things occurred with a high frequency yesterday."

Q: In terms of rotating, do you think you're done with that now? Did you see enough in the first game or is that something you'll continue to do?

Coach Del Rio: "I think we'll see how different things shake out. I don't spend a lot of time talking about our own personnel to people outside of our group. We'll rotate guys where we think it's smart to and where we want to open up competition and let guys go for it there. So we'll do that where we think it's appropriate."

Q: On Cordarrelle Patterson's long return, what did you see on that?

Coach Del Rio: "I saw about 14 or 15 yards after contact. He's a strong runner. He brought it out... I think the blocking was OK. We'll improve as we go, but he is certainly somebody that runs with a lot of force, a lot of speed, a lot of force. So, we're excited about him having those opportunities as we go throughout the year."

Q: How impressive was Shalom Luani's onside kick recovery considering it was his first NFL snap?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, the awareness, we wanted to make our players aware of those types of things. [Titans Head Coach] Mike [Mularkey] had a history of looking for those opportunities, so we were alert for that possibility going



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into it. I was impressed with his poise. He was able to not have the moment be too big, sit there and make a heck of a play to get that ball recovered. Obviously, it set up a short field, and we go right down and score. I thought it was a big way to start.”

Q: When did you know Sebastian Janikowski was going to be out?

Coach Del Rio: “Saturday. When we were going into meetings, he pulled me aside and said, ‘I might be able to start, give you a kick or two, but I’m not going to be able to do it.’ He just didn’t want to let the team down. He wanted to make sure he conveyed that to me in advance so I would be able to do something. I appreciate him being honest with himself and with us and doing what’s best for the team. It could have gone a different way, had a different ending yesterday. Obviously, it was a great story with Giorgio [Tavecchio] going in there and taking full advantage of his opportunity. Part of it was Seabass caring enough about the team to not put himself out there when he knew he couldn’t do his thing and produce for us. That was good on both accounts.”

Q: Did he say the flight bothered him?

Coach Del Rio: “I didn’t get into that. [He] just told me where he was.”

Q: What was it that impressed you about Giorgio Tavecchio’s performance on Sunday?

Coach Del Rio: “I think the biggest thing is to just do your job. I think he just focus on his job. He didn’t make it anything more than what it was, an opportunity to express himself and be himself and take all the training that he had and apply it. Let the natural ability take over.”

Q: What’s the next step for Janikowski?

Coach Del Rio: “IR.”

Q: Does he need treatment? Does he have to see a specialist?

Coach Del Rio: “Oh, I’m not the doctor involved. I’m sure the doctors and trainers will have protocol set up for him to follow.”