



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jon Gruden

**Opening statement:** “Just real quick, we have a couple of roster announcements. We obviously got Daryl Worley back. We don’t know what his status is going to be for the game, but he’s back with us. We’re putting Donald Penn on Injured Reserve. Hopefully we’ll get him back late in the season. We re-signed Ian Silberman who was with us in training camp. I’ll be happy to answer any questions I can.”

**Q: Can you talk about Dwayne Harris’ value?**

**Coach Gruden:** “He got hurt in the Ram game, missed the Denver game. He’s a guy that, another one of our specialist that’s been out, but we’re happy to have him back. Not only did he return the ball well, but he made two key tackles and forced the holding call. That’s why we signed him. He’s been an impact Pro Bowl special teams player where he’s been.”

**Q: What has impressed you the most about Maurice Hurst’s development?**

**Coach Gruden:** “He just showed a lot of mental toughness. It’s a tough job for a rookie. He’s playing two or three different positions. He’s playing a lot more than most rookies at his positions. You can check that. Not many rookie D-linemen are even playing. He’s playing a lot of positions and doing a lot of things and he’s learning the hard way.”

**Q: Do you feel pretty good about Brandon Parker being able to step in for Donald Penn?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I feel pretty good. We are confident. He’s back. He’s healthy. And he played pretty good when he got in there and played. This will be a great opportunity for him.”

**Q: Philip Rivers has had a lot of success in this league. What makes it tough playing against him?**

**Coach Gruden:** “He’s had success against everybody. I think he’s what the NFL is all about. He’s one of my favorite players. Not only a great performer, he’s a great competitor. He’s durable. He’s tough. Look at the number of players that he’s played with. Different backs, different linemen, different receivers, different coaches, different systems. He’s going to be a handful for us. Great opportunity for our defense to show their improvement.”

**Q: Can you talk about the NFL international games and how important it is for the NFL to expand where they play games?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think it’s great. It’s kind of not on my mind right now, but I think it’s great for the brand of football. I wish I could be more a part of it honestly. I’m excited for it.”

**Q: When you’re installing do you have certain benchmarks that you look at as you go to see how you’re developing? Where do you think you are in that process?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think we’re doing pretty good. I don’t like to talk about it publicly honestly. I let the film speak for itself. We’re doing some good things. We keep raising the bar every day.”

**Q: Is Parker the guy at right tackle?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah, he’ll be the guy.”

**Q: What about Marshawn Lynch surprises you besides what he can do on the field?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I’ve know about Marshawn. I’ve covered Marshawn. I’ve seen Marshawn play and practice live. You watched an 0-3 football team the other day, how much it meant to him. He’s just a great competitor. I think he’s a hall of fame back without a doubt. He can catch it. He can run it. He plays with passion. Practices with passion. He’s a great player. I’m happy to be here with him.”



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**Q: What about the things he brings to the locker room?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think he's probably not the most outspoken guy we have, but he leads by example. He certainly raises the level of people around him. When you see him playing and competing that hard, you want to do the same for him."

**Q: How important is it to not get off to an 0-2 start in the division?**

**Coach Gruden:** "What do you think? I mean it's important. We try to win every game. We understand the importance of it. We also realize that we have to continue to improve. We want to win."

**Q: What is it about the Chargers specifically that concerns you?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I just have a lot of respect for the rivalry. I was here before. I didn't care what their record was, what our record was. They were always tough games. Very good team. A lot of people think they're a Super Bowl team. When you look at their tape, they're as physical as any outfit we've seen. It'll be a challenge for us."

**Q: What is it about Philip Rivers that has made him so good for so long?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's a great talent. He's a son of a coach. He has all the intangibles. The work ethic, the personal drive, the commitment to be great. He's got one of the quickest releases that you'll ever see. He's as tough as they get. He has all the talent to make all the throws. He's the terminator. He won't go away. He just will not quit."

### QB Derek Carr

**Q: Talk about working with the new rookie tackles now that Donald Penn is on IR.**

**Carr:** "I love Donald so I'll miss him for however long that is. With Brandon [Parker], everyone knows how we feel about him around here. He's really good. I'm sure he had a couple plays as a rookie that he'd want back but you live with that. He's very intelligent, so crazy looks and things like that aren't going to mess with him. He's one of the smartest rookies I've ever been around. Obviously we know how Kolton [Miller] is. Kolton's a stud. You don't feel like you have two rookies because they're so talented but at the end of the day, they are. It's something that we have to do a good job with helping those guys out."

**Q: You and Donald came in at the same time. What kind of impact has he had on your career?**

**Carr:** "Donald gave me that protection, first and foremost. Second, him as a vet always encouraging me. Telling me things that I'd do in games and saying, 'you're going to be special, man, keep doing it.' Things like that as a rookie means a lot coming from an eight, nine year vet at the time. It means a lot. You try and do the same things for the young guys as you get older. HE definitely had an impact on me for sure."

**Q: Where are you now with the process of learning the new Gruden 'language'?**

**Carr:** "There has been a lot of work put in by everybody, not just me. We'll have one or two here where we'll still learning stuff or like 'oh man, we have to cover that more or let's talk about this situation more.' Through the first four games, we're knocking some rust off, we're knocking some things off that we're learning on the fly. At the same time, I still feel like we're doing some good things, moving the ball-wise and completing passes, running efficiently, protecting. All the things that are important and not easy to do. I feel like we're in a good place, but I still feel like we could be a lot better. There's no doubt in my mind that we've done a lot of things but we're not near where we want to be yet."

**Q: Does the process with receivers have to start all over again?**

**Carr:** "There are some things that me reading body language and knowing how they run routes and things like that has helped. There are still things that is new stuff we haven't done before. Obviously, some of us



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have done it at one time or another but not together. With all the adjustments and things that coach puts on us, there's absolutely a learning curve even though we've been together for a while."

**Q: Given that Jared Cook can play outside in the slot, how much of an asset to have a tall guy match up with linebackers or corners?**

**Carr:** "He's nice to have. I'm glad we have him. I'm glad he runs routes for me, blocks for me, all those things. He's a stud, man. He's one of the best at what he does in the whole world. I'm glad that we have him. I'm glad he decided to come here in free agency two years ago. We're able to see in every system that he's been in, the two systems that he's been in here, he's been productive. He's been a good player. To have a guy like that, coaches love him because you create mismatches and problems and things like that, but at the same time when you get him the ball he can do some things after the catch, too. Kind of like a receiver, almost, that not a lot of tight ends can do."

**Q: You've been around Marshawn Lynch awhile now. Why do you think he runs the way he runs?**

**Carr:** "It just comes down to him wanting to impose his will. At the end of the day, as a competitor, he's not going to quit at any moment on the field. I think that's just Marshawn. He's not going to quit on anything or anybody, especially his teammates. When he goes out there, I think you see him running the same in the first quarter as the fourth quarter. I think we talked about that after the game. People say, 'do you think he gets tired?' Well, maybe. But he just doesn't quit. He's still going to impose his will and guys tackling him have to know that they may hit him good once, but you're going to have to do it again in second and third quarter about 30 times. Marshawn is going to try and outlast people. I think that's what makes him special."

**Q: What about the intangibles Lynch brings to this locker room?**

**Carr:** "He is a great teammate. I haven't met a player, someone in Seattle, Buffalo, here, anyone that's been with him that didn't like him as a teammate. He's a great, great teammate. If you ever need anything for some kids or you ever need someone to be there for something, he's always there. He's always there to talk to the young guys. One thing I love about him, something new that I saw in training camp, after ever rep that Chris Warren would have, he would go talk to him and teach him something. Whatever they were talking about, running back stuff. I have no clue how to run the ball, obviously, except in short yardage which we'll have to get on Marshawn about. He does something that is so special for our team that he goes to a guy that maybe may not even make the team, but he sees value in him and he creates a conversation. Creates a moment for him to try to get better. It's awesome to see guys that are as good as he is at what they do that care about everybody around the building."

**Q: How important was field position on Sunday?**

**Carr:** "It's really nice when you're standing there and a kick goes by you or there's some turnover and get to run towards the endzone as an offense. Obviously, we go way down by the 20 and see what happens. It just does something to everybody's confidence. We will gladly run 60 extra yards to start in the redzone. We'll gladly do that, those kinds of things. Or to be on the bench and all of a sudden, 'Oh, we got the ball in the redzone.' We're already on our side of the field. That, you ask anybody, anyone needs that. That is essential to winning football games."

**Q: What's important when you're starting inside the opponents 30-yard line?**

**Carr:** "Oh man, get points. Finish. The defense or the special teams put us in a great spot. You want to pat them on the back by getting them points. You got a field goal at the least, but you want to score a touchdown with that good of field position. Whenever you can get points, it's a big thank you to the guys that got you down there."



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**Q: When you see Casey Hayward and Derwin James on tape, what jumps out at you?**

**Carr:** "I've know Casey for a while. He's a great player. He's really sticky in coverage. They're very athletic, good ball skills. Derwin, he's a rookie, he's a new player, but he's a good player. He doesn't play like a rookie. Obviously, he has a few plays here and there that anybody would want back, but that's anybody. He doesn't look like a rookie. He's a really good player. I think he's going to be there for a long time. I'm sure this will be the first time I'll get to see him, but it won't be the last."

**Q: What have you seen and possibly learned from going against Rivers?**

**Carr:** "I love Philip. I would say I'm not trying to have as many kids as Philip does. I'm good at where we're at (*laughing*). I love Philip. He's very tough. He loves football. I think we have a lot of things in common. I think that's why we have a genuine respect for one and other is because we both love to be tough guys. We both love to talk trash sometimes. We both love to win and compete with our teammates. Again, Philip, hopefully one day will be in the Hall of Fame because he deserves it. He's one of the best quarterbacks to ever play. I love his game. His toughness, his competitiveness, he tries to be second to none."

### Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn

**Q: How different is it to prepare for the Raiders this year with the coaching change?**

**Lynn:** "Coach Gruden, you know, he does a lot of things. He does a lot of things well right now, the offense is moving the ball tremendously well. Last week, I think they played their best game and scored a lot of points. I'm sure he'll have a trick or two for us. It's always difficult to prepare for a good head coach."

**Q: What have you seen from Brandon Parker and Kolton Miller?**

**Lynn:** "I loved Miller in college and thought he did a good job. He's going to be an outstanding tackle in this league. He's a rookie, so of course he's going to have some growing pains, but he's a good football player. I don't know much about the other tackle to be honest with you. But if he's on that roster, I'm sure he's good because he's got one of the best offensive lines in the game. We'll see how it plays out."

**Q: Does it surprise you at all to see how hard Marshawn Lynch is still running at his age?**

**Lynn:** "No. Marshawn, I've been a big fan of his ever since college. Worked him out, brought him in for a visit and all of that. Just followed his career, he's a professional. It doesn't surprise me at all. I think he looks as good now as he did three, four years ago. Just relentless runner, very unsatisfied and everything you want in a back - highly intelligent."

**Q: Why do you think Marshawn runs with the anger that he runs with?**

**Lynn:** "He's not a satisfied runner. He wants every inch and every yard that he can get. He's built to run the ball between the tackles and he has the speed and quickness to circle the defense. He has a unique skill set. His blitz pick-up is outstanding and his hands are outstanding. I thought coming out, he was the most complete back in his class."

**Q: How do you feel your pass rush has performed without Joey Bosa?**

**Lynn:** "Well, you know, not good enough. We haven't won enough one-on-ones to be honest with you. People have given Melvin Ingram a lot of attention, as they should, and it's freed some guys to go in on the backside and we just haven't got it done. We'll make adjustments and we'll create pressure different ways."



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**Q: What about Derwin James makes him a special player?**

**Lynn:** "He's 6-3, he's long, he's 220 pounds, he's fast, he's physical. You can use him in multiple positions. He can play the deep-middle when you need him to, he can play in the box when you need him to. I love the way he plays in space. The reason we drafted him is because we wanted to get faster on defense and we wanted better space players. He has definitely helped."

**Q: Was it surprising to see how long he lasted in the first round?**

**Lynn:** "It was surprising. We had him higher. When he fell to us, it was a gift."

**Q: The Raiders had some of their issues they are addressing last week with tackling...I was curious how you thought your team was doing and whether tackling is kind of a problem in the NFL now with reduced contact and reduced practice time?**

**Lynn:** "You know what, we can always tackle better. I don't think we are doing a bad job of tackling right now but we can always tackle better. Our run defense is better than it was at this time last year. I like the improvement we are making on that side of the ball and tackling is a big part of that. Sure, you can always tackle better, and I think it's a problem though, not just with a couple teams, but you go to high school right now and everybody is playing spread football and people don't know how to run with it anymore. I'm just curious how much time people spend on fundamentals of tackling when you only have so many hours in college with the guys. Then you get them in the NFL and the offseason you don't get to see them as much as you used to. It's just a matter of time before some things take its toll but I don't think you can say every team is tackling poorly."

**Q: Jon Gruden said that it was hard to celebrate for too long after their win on Sunday knowing that the Chargers were their next opponent. Is it a similar mindset for you coming into this game?**

**Lynn:** "No doubt about it. I thought about the Raiders before I walked into the locker room last week. It's a divisional game, it's a big game. Coach Gruden has a reputation. He is a friend as well and I know he's a heck of a coach. He will have those guys ready to play, so no I didn't celebrate for very long either."

**Q: What do you see from [Defensive Tackle] Maurice Hurst?**

**Lynn:** "Coming out of Michigan we liked him a lot, man. We really did. I was really happy someone picked him up. I wasn't really happy the Raiders picked him up. This guy he had the medical condition, but most people had a first round grade on him. He played to a first round grade as well. Very high motor, good pass rusher inside and plays the line better than people give him credit for. He is just a really good football player."

**Q: Is [QB] Philip Rivers slipping at all in any way?**

**Lynn:** "Philip is a professional. You talk about Marshawn [Lynch], Philip is a professional. He takes care of himself and he is going to do everything he can to stay on top of his game. I was so impressed with him this offseason. I thought he looked younger. Someone asked me if I was concerned about his age and I said, 'Not at all. If anything, he looks younger.' That's Philip though."