



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Detroit Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia

Q: How does Darren Waller compare with some of the league's better tight ends?

Coach Patricia: "I think he's playing at a phenomenally high level. Very fast, very skillful tight end. He's got a great catch radius. He can get vertical speed into the secondary and he's willing to do the dirty work in the run game, so I just think he's a really good tight end. It basically seems like every single week we see outstanding tight end play and he's another one. He's just another great tight end in this league right now that's producing at a high level and it will be a big challenge for us going forward this week."

Q: What strides have you seen Matthew Stafford make this season?

Coach Patricia: "I think Matthew Stafford has done a great job just understanding we are putting in a new offense, learning a new system, a new terminology. I think his continual leadership of our team and the way that he approaches every single day to come in and get better, improve and help our guys learn. And just the way that he studies and prepares week in and week out, it's just very impressive and it's at a high level. I thoroughly enjoy coaching him every single day."

Q: What have you seen from Josh Jacobs as a runner and his physical attributes?

Coach Patricia: "He's a very explosive player, very strong. Has great vision, can get in and out of the line of scrimmage very easily, gets into the secondary. He's an explosive running back and one of the things that just sticks out right away is his toughness. He doesn't want to run out of bounds. He's going to go attack the defenders. He's going to try and hit them before they hit him and it's just a really impressive young player, knowing his background and where he played college football. I just think he's transcended into the NFL at a high level."

Q: Do you have any cool memories of coaching in Oakland?

Coach Patricia: "Obviously a lot great trips through my years in Oakland and some pretty incredible games and situations. Love the atmosphere, the fans, the stadium. It's one of those hostile environments you love going into that you know is going to be competitive and obviously the history of the Raiders and the tradition of the Raiders is something I have great respect for and admiration. I love the history of the game and more recently just really thoroughly enjoyed our time out there last year. We practiced against [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden and his team and everyone treated us really well and helped us through that process and just a lot of really good memories."

Q: What's the biggest difference that you see in this current team compared to the one that you saw at the beginning of last year?

Coach Patricia: "Obviously you can see the team that Coach Gruden is trying to develop: the toughness, the mentality that they put on the field, the work ethic. Obviously, the different talent they brought in, the overhaul on the roster, the younger players that are stepping up combined with the veteran players that are there and just understanding how that team is growing. It's a big difference, it's a huge improvement. Coach Gruden has got that team rolling at a high level, competitive level and a tough level, so it makes it real difficult to go play against."

Q: What jumps out when you watch the Raiders offensive line on film?

Coach Patricia: "I mean, certainly, the first thing that jumps out is the size. They're huge. These guys are big, tough, they're strong. [Offensive line] Coach [Tom] Cable does a great job of coaching the o-line. I've played against him for a number of years and I have a lot of respect for the way that he coaches that unit and what he's been able to do to develop players in the offensive line. Trent Brown is someone that I know and he's big, he's powerful. All those guys across the front, Richie Incognito, who we played against for a couple years too is just a tough guy. The overall toughness of that crew and their size just sticks out right away."



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Q: As an opposing coach what are some of the things that Coach Cable does well?

Coach Patricia: "I think one of things he really gets out of his guys, along with the toughness part, is just the finish. They do a really good job of finishing their blocks. They'll get a hat on a hat, they'll run their feet and they'll tie guys up, but the acceleration that they have when the defensive lineman or linebacker is trying to get off the block and they run their feet and they finish those blocks or they get down field and they'll clean out the defenders that are around the pile. Just that overall toughness attitude, but just the finish really, it's outstanding."

Q: Are you seeing any difference in Derek Carr this season compared to past seasons?

Coach Patricia: "I'll say this as far as the quarterback, I think he's playing at a really high level. I think his comfort level in the offense is really showing through. His ability to get to the line of scrimmage, make checks, make adjustments, change the play, handle pressure. This is a team that just performs in all kinds of environments and all kinds of circumstances, and really the quarterback is kind of leading the charge with all of that. The ball comes out fast, he's making quick decisions. He pushes the ball downfield when he knows that he's got a chance to make big plays and he'll make changes at the line of scrimmage in the run game, so just his comfort level of the offense is something that really sticks out right away and you can see his maturation process through learning this offense."