



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “First, I’d like to offer up prayers for the people affected by the tragedy in Las Vegas. It’s kind of numbing to hear about something like that, but I just want to offer up prayers for all those who are affected. I think we all affected in some way, but obviously to the people directly affected.

“Second, I have to clarify a medical report. Yesterday, I told you Derek [Carr] had suffered spasms, and he was in fact spasming, but the reason is he has a transverse process fracture. There is a real good chance he’ll miss this week and these injuries, the time frame is typically two to six. I got that information about 10 minutes ago. I thought I’d share it with the local guys here first, so there you are. I just got off the phone with him. He said he’s sorry. Great kid. He’ll bounce back. I told him that the team will take care of business while he’s healing and just get healed up and when he can come back, he’ll come back. That’s the story now on that injury. It ended up being something that caused the spasms. They took a good look, got several tests and the last one came back with that being the case. Other than that, I’m here to review the game, so if you guys have any questions, let it rip.”

Q: How tough is it for you as a coach, and for your players, to keep your own sense of normalcy when something like what happened last night in Las Vegas occurs? This obviously affects all of us.

Coach Del Rio: “The structure of what we have to do kind of goes on, but there is no doubt that that display of evil... I can’t think of anything other maybe 9/11, that type of thing, where that many lives are affected, that many people are directly affected. Like I said, it’s a little bit numbing.”

Q: Do you feel better about Carr’s absence now that you have EJ Manuel?

Coach Del Rio: “Well I know more about EJ. I thought EJ gave us a chance there at the end. He did some things really well. There’s some definite positive, encouraging signs that we can build on. Obviously, it’s always a big blow to lose a good player, a key player and your quarterback. The good news is he’s not gone for the year. We’ll get him back. It could be as short as two weeks. It could be longer, we’ll see. We’ll deal with that as it goes. Certainly, the way EJ played yesterday was uplifting.”

Q: What did you see in how Manuel reacted yesterday when he was asked to come in?

Coach Del Rio: “I thought he was very poised throughout the time that he played. He handled his business. He went through the reads. I think with the exception of the clock expiring in that environment, that’s the one thing he didn’t get near the repetitions that we got with our starter, obviously. That’s the one thing that I came out of there saying as a coach, ‘OK, I have to have him better prepared for that.’”

Q: With this type of fracture, is he totally incapacitated?

Coach Del Rio: “No.”

Q: What can Carr do with his injury?

Coach Del Rio: “I heard this 10 minutes ago, so I haven’t had a chance to really dig into it to know. I know that when he can go, he’ll go. I’ll trust the doctors to do their thing.”

Q: You guys haven’t had a first down in the first quarter in either of the last two games. What are you seeing in those quarters?

Coach Del Rio: “I think obviously a lack of rhythm. We’ve got to look at everything. We will. I think for the fan right now, it’s probably more about, ‘Hey, who can I blame right now and get pissed at?’ I get that. That’s not how we’re going to operate. We’re all looking to make it better. It starts with what we call, when we call it, how we execute the call. Coaches coach, players play. We’re going to coach and do better at coaching. The players are going to play and do better at playing and executing. We’re going to be better. We’re a better unit than we’ve shown offensively the last two weeks. No question. It hasn’t been good enough and it’s led directly to losses, two losses.”



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Q: Are you a little surprised with what's happened the last two weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm never surprised by the way events can turn around in the NFL. This is 32 years of doing it, playing and coaching. I've seen a lot of ups and downs and trials and tribulations. The ball bounces, it's shaped odd and it bounces different ways. Nothing really surprises me. I know we have a good group of guys. We have a good group of coaches and players and we're all going to work to get this right. I believe in that. I trust our guys and I believe in who we are. I believe that will show as we go through this year."

Q: What are the issues in the run game?

Coach Del Rio: "There's several things. Like I said, it's like a combination. Maybe a missed block here. Maybe the back doesn't hit the hole. Maybe they beat us on the scheme. Maybe they had a better call against that scheme. All different factors add up. I know we have big, powerful guys up front. We've got backs that are all very capable. We have a really good staff. We have to put it together to make it work. That's the bottom line. For two weeks now, we've stubbed our toe. Maybe more than just a toe. We've struggled. It's really obvious to everybody that follows us. It's obvious to me. We're working hard to get it right."

Q: How do you handle a guy like Amari Cooper, who had another crucial drop yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "I think he's going to be just fine. I believe in Amari, I think he's a really good player. That ball got on him quick yesterday, ends up being one, 'Oh my gosh, there's another one.' Yeah, OK. I believe Amari's a really good player and we'll take advantage of that. We're going to make sure that we're getting him the ball and that we're utilizing the strengths that he brings."

Q: What is the status of Michael Crabtree?

Coach Del Rio: "Crabtree, we'll see how practice goes, you know? If he can come back and tolerate practice... He's a pretty tough guy. He tried really hard to get back last week. So, hopefully makes it this week."

Q: Did Gareon Conley suffer a setback of any kind?

Coach Del Rio: "He wouldn't admit much, but I just saw him reacting as though it was sore a little more last week. So, he got the weekend off. We'll practice him probably Thursday and be smart on Wednesday – some type of limited fashion on Wednesday I would think. And then, get a good workload on Thursday and get him to the game and look at him that way."

Q: What did you think of how Sean Smith and Dexter McDonald played in extended time?

Coach Del Rio: "I thought, overall defensively, a lot of different contributing factors, I thought those guys being able to go in and know what to do and do it well was very positive for us. I thought the pass rush throughout the day was disruptive and good for us. So overall, a really solid and gritty effort that kept us in the game. Those guys did enough, got enough stops, keeping them 0-for-4 in the red zone there and get off the field, get the ball back for the offense a couple times late in the game, had to have it. Those were positive things for us."

Q: It looked like Marshall Newhouse was held on the play where Von Miller got to the quarterback...

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, Derek [Wolfe] did a nice job."

Q: How common in that?

Coach Del Rio: "It's something they're trying to clean up. It's hard to catch all of them. They did a nice job executing a trick of the trade. You're not supposed to be able to get that done, but it's hard to see every time that it's done. He reached out and grabbed him. So, it was well-done on their part."

Q: Is that type of play easier to get away with being that the umpire is in the backfield?

Coach Del Rio: "Can be. There's a lot of excuses for it. I mean, they tend to see the tackle hold, so I don't know why they can't see the defensive player hold."



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Q: What did you like most about EJ Manuel when he played yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "I think I spoke to it. You know, the poise that he played with; I don't think the moment was too big for him. I thought he was accurate, he made good decisions with the exception of putting that one up late on second down – just check it down there and keep moving the chains. But overall, I liked the demeanor he played with, I liked the certainty he played with, I like his accuracy."

Q: The expectations of the offensive line as a whole are pretty sky-high so anytime there is a sack, fans wonder what's going on. What do you see on tape, are they off at all?

Coach Del Rio: "They're actually playing pretty well. Again, I know this goes back to what I was saying to Vic, I know people want somebody to blame. Just blame me, that's easy. Blame the head coach. Seriously. Because, we're going to get it right. I'm worried about why, but I'm not worried about explaining it and talking about it. I'm worried about getting it right. We've got a good group. We've got a good group. They're physical. We've got good backs. We've got good coaches. We will get it right. It needs to get right, now."

Q: You talked about Marquette King's personal fouls last year. What did you actually communicate to him?

Coach Del Rio: "It's maturity. That's what I need to communicate with him. I will, in person. That's all it is. It's a matter of being mature enough to put the team ahead of yourself and being able to handle those emotions when you're disappointed. Sometimes you're disappointed and you want to lash out because it maybe makes you feel good for about three seconds. Then you deal with the consequences. Those weren't good consequences. We were fortunate there. It's another opportunity for him to learn how important it is to keep things under control."

Q: Have you spoken to him yet?

Coach Del Rio: "We'll talk tomorrow."

Q: You guys used six offensive linemen a lot last year with some success. Is there a reason you got away from that this year?

Coach Del Rio: "It's a good point. The guy that was really good at it, Denver [Kirkland], he was really the best at it and he's injured right now, on IR. We really felt comfortable with him in that package. Who knows? It's early in the year."

Q: Have you talked to Derek Carr at all today?

Coach Del Rio: "I just got off the phone with him. I got the news about 10 minutes before I needed to come down here and first thing I did was call him and let him know that that was what we found, just moments ago. You guys got it, it's fresh a story as it could be."

Q: That's from the MRI, correct?

Coach Del Rio: "That's from the CAT scan. The MRI wasn't conclusive, so they did a CAT scan and that's where it was determined that there was a problem. He did the CAT scan after this morning, like this afternoon. This all just happened. The timeline was first the X-Ray yesterday, doesn't look like anything. Then the MRI this morning, still looks good. Then, let's be sure because we didn't have a real good look at this area, so the CAT scan revealed the problem."

Q: It must be pretty small?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not a doctor."

Q: Any update on David Amerson?

Coach Del Rio: "Nothing. We knew he was concussed yesterday so there's nothing really to add to that. He'll be in the protocol."