



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jon Gruden

**Opening statement:** "I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can."

**Q: Where does this leave your wide receivers group?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Pretty much like we talked about the other day, Marcell Ateman will get a chance. Saeed Blacknall has been brought up, he'll get a chance. They've had a good couple of days in the ice rink, so we'll see if they're ready to roll."

**Q: It's not ideal that two wide receivers are making their NFL debuts in a week where you practiced once. How as a staff did you get these guys ready despite the lack of on field preparation?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We got to deal with what we have to deal with. We got a lot of reps in. We are confident that they know what to do. We just have to trust that they'll go out there and perform at the highest level possible."

**Q: Where you able to hold practice as normal offsite or was it more of a walk through?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We had to pretty much walk through. We're practicing in an indoor, it's kind of like a soccer...It's like an indoor ice rink that was transferred into a soccer field. We didn't have much room to get the splits and get the routes. We're not going to make any excuses. We're not the only people dealing with adversity right now."

**Q: Were there any hash marks?**

**Coach Gruden:** "You should go see it, it's really cool. We were really thankful for the opportunity to use the facility. I'll be honest with you, it was either that or get nothing. So, I'm really pleased with the players and the coaches and the preparation that we were able to get in."

**Q: What sorts of strides have you seen Daryl Worley make?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's a good player. He's a young corner that is, I still think, on his way to becoming a very good NFL player. He's just had some things to deal with physically and off the field. I think he's starting to assert himself here as one of our core guys that we can rely on in the secondary. We need something like that."

**Q: What makes their pass rush so impactful?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well it starts with [Chandler] Jones. Don't forget [Markus] Golden either, he's had double-digit sacks. They have two centerpieces that can really get after you. They push the pocket. They're big inside. It's hard for the quarterback to step up because of the mass that they have inside. They blitz a lot. I think Cardinals must have 10 guys with a sack. They come from everywhere. It's a wide-range of problems. It's good pass rushers, a diverse blitzing scheme. That's a tough combination in the crowd noise, it's loud there."

**Q: What parts of Saeed's skill set stand out most?**

**Gruden:** "He's got speed. He's got size. It starts right there. He's a guy that has a big upside and he just needs some time. I don't think any of us expected him to be out there playing in the tenth regular season game as a rookie, but I'm excited to see him play."

**Q: What have you seen out of Mo Hurst and Jason Cabinda from a leadership standpoint?**

**Gruden:** "Hurst has got natural leadership skills and his intangibles are off the charts. So does Cabinda. Cabinda, you've got that Penn State linebacker U tradition all over him. He's got that stuff. We need that at middle linebacker. Haven't had a middle linebacker in terms of stability here for awhile, maybe since Greg Biekert. I don't know when the last time was that we had a linebacker that played in the middle for



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two, three, four years in a row. He's got those leadership traits. He's a great communicator. Passionate about the game. He's improving."

**Q: On offense, your line has been makeshift, Marshawn Lynch is on IR, your wide receivers are going through this. How much of an impact has that had, from a coaching perspective?**

**Gruden:** "I blame [Greg] Olson, he's the coordinator (*laughing*). Anything that goes wrong, I get on Olson. More than anything, the practices have impacted us. You need to see things at speed to generate timing. Switching stunts in a walk through in an indoor facility is one thing, in a controlled fashion. Switching them on a practice field at full speed is another. Timing out routes, seeing it at speed. That's why you see a lot of indoor facilities around the league. It gets bad outside, they go inside. Fortunately for us we were able to find a place to get some work in."

**Q: From a ball security standpoint, is there an opportunity on Sunday with Josh Rosen?**

**Gruden:** "We hope so. We've got to stop David Johnson. The Cardinals still have a lot of great players. It starts with 31. They have Larry Fitzgerald, still a very impactful guy. They have Christian Kirk, a young wide receiver that can make some plays. We've got to stop Johnson. We have to stop the running game. If we can stop the running game and get in some second-and-longs, and some third-and-long situations, perhaps we can unleash some blitzes and make things tougher on Rosen."