



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

#### **Q: Pretty spirited out there today, huh?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I guess they enjoyed that long weekend. Maybe they’re fired up watching the way the Warriors closed it out last night. I think there was a great opportunity to teach for us today with some of the spats that were going on, that were really not part of what we do. You guys watched us all last year in camp. It’s not a big part of what happens with the way we work and the way we have respect for each other. Just about every case, it was a new guy that hasn’t really... I pretty much take it on myself. I say, OK these guys have not been told, so now is a great opportunity. I laid it out for them, what it looks like here, how we treat each other, what the Raider way looks like. Hopefully we won’t waste our time doing things like that. Raiders want to take care of Raiders. We want to compete and play hard. We want to be respectful. We want to understand that having self-control is huge. Displaying real toughness is not hurting the team or getting yourself thrown out, it’s having the discipline to do the right thing. That’s the real toughness. That’s the toughness I’m looking for, the real toughness. Anyway, we talked about that. I would think that would be to a minimum going forward.”

#### **Q: Did you have coaches who liked that sort of stuff when you played?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “No, I’ve never been a big fan of that whole fighting. I’ve always felt that as teammates you should respect each other. If you have a problem and you can’t get it worked out, the strong will survive kind of thing, but in reality, we can’t afford to lose somebody. We can’t afford to train ourselves to respond in a way that’s not appropriate for a game. We’re out here, we need to stimulate how we’re going to respond in a game. Everything we’re doing, we want to put our guys through the paces and have them react the way they would in a game. The last thing we can have is a couple guys thrown out because they’re not responding the right way. There’s an opportunity to teach, but from a culture standpoint, it’s not what we’re looking for. Like I said, hopefully with the flare-ups we had, they understand the message loud and clear from me and we’re able to go forward and do our business and not have that silly stuff.”

#### **Q: It seemed like maybe they were just going through the motions today.**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I thought we were a little sloppy today, but it wasn’t for a lack of desire. Things like that are kind of indicative for how the day went, in my estimation. We’ll be better tomorrow.”

#### **Q: You have a situation where you have most of your skilled guys on offense coming back for a second year. How does the continuity benefit the offense?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “We feel really good about what we’re able to do as a staff in the offseason. Really looking at what our guys were best at and some of the things we liked, but weren’t very good at. We were able to tailor the offense that way, design it that way. For the guys, the system not changing, them understanding some of the nuances now, some of the combination blocks or the route combinations for the quarterback, a familiarity with the reps, we should be much crisper executing those things. It should add up. I know [offensive coordinator] Bill [Musgrave] is going to talk to you here in a little bit, but you should take a step, taking advantage of that familiarity that you have with a staff returning and the majority of the staff returning.”

#### **Q: How has Gabe Jackson been doing switching sides? Most of the time you want your guys to be able to play both sides anyway. He’s been exclusively a left side guy since college. Has that been an adjustment for him?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I think Gabe can answer that best. From our standpoint, we’re looking for the best combination. We feel like he’s got the power that’s really a covet for a right guard, in particular. Both of those guys are really talented. That was the decision we made, to try that way first with Gabe. I’ve seen nothing that would suggest anything other than he’s going to be just fine and we’ll be a much stronger unit with that group that’ll end up being in there and we’ll be stout.”



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### **Q: What have you thought of Jihad Ward since he's been here?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's probably a little quicker than I anticipated. He's a serious kid, so he really studies hard and works at it, takes great pride in it. I see him flash a little more than I anticipated, in terms of having quickness and the ability to find the football. Some defensive linemen are stuck on blocks and they're wrestling the block all the time. Guys will run right by them and they don't have the awareness to see them. You can coach them through that, but really that's been pretty natural. He's pretty natural when it comes to wanting to find the ball carrier and wanting to find the quarterback. That's been a pleasant surprise."

### **Q: What are your observations for the three undrafted receivers, K.J. Brent, Joe Hansley and Johnny Holton?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I would say probably Hansley stands out with his hands out of that group. They're all working hard. They're behind. We were talking earlier about how the returning skill people know the offense and they're at a different level. You look over and they may not be running the right route or doing something properly and you're like, 'What the heck?' But then you remember that he just got here. They're good kids. I think depth for us at the back of our wide receiver corps is critical for us. We're still searching. They all have an opportunity. I would think that we'll continue to explore any possibility to add depth on the back end of our receiver group. Our first four guys are pretty solid, but beyond that it gets pretty thin."

### **Q: Did you go to the Warriors game last night?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No. I texted with people that were there about the incredible atmosphere. Great performance. Really proud of them."

## **Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave**

**Opening Statement:** "Just completed four practices. Looking to make progress each and every day and today was a good step in that direction."

### **Q: How does having a lot of guys back in skill positions make this offseason program different?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Yeah it's definitely different than 12 months ago. We have a better grasp of our system and having Derek [Carr] out there for these four practices was more than we had last year with his injured arm. We're looking to take advantage of that even better once the real ones start there in September."

### **Q: Has there been a lot of tailoring the offense to what worked last year this offseason?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Yeah, there's been a bunch of that starting way back in January. We've had a lot of good sessions where... We just learned a lot when you're able to sit back and look at the season rather than going from game to game to game to week to week to week. We feel like we have a good grasp on our guys' strengths. There are certain limitations, which there aren't a lot of. We have a really good group and we're looking forward to this 2016 season."

### **Q: Do you have an explanation as to why the offense took a step back in the second half of the year?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Well there's a combination of factors. We didn't play as well, we didn't coach as well. I think we learned more about ourselves when we didn't have those exciting days than we did back there in September and October. We're looking to really take those lessons, learn and be even better going forward."

### **Q: Where do you think the run game needs to grow?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "I think overall we're looking to do more things that are up our players' respective alleys. What can they do well? I think we have a better grasp of that today than we did 12 months ago. We want to do running concepts that our guys can execute, whether it's the running back or the O-line. We're always looking to get better, of course, fundamentally- and technique-wise. We're going to keep working in that direction."



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**Q: Last year, you were really urging Derek to give you his input during a game. Is that what you want to see him do? Take ownership and go?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Most definitely. I think it helps that he doesn’t have to learn a new language again. Two years in the league, two different systems, now this year he can feel like he has a good grasp of it and start putting his own spin on things and can put his own signature on the system. Things that he wants to see or tweak a quarter turn here or there, he can initiate that.”

**Q: How much do you think it will help Latavius Murray if you can get a second running back to share the load with?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “I think Latavius did have to carry a majority of the load [last year], so it will help. I think we have a really good stable of runners right now. Someone will emerge and we’ll have different guys that will get put in different situations, whether it’s Jamize [Olawale] or Marcel [Reece] or Taiwan [Jones]. Then there will be other guys that will emerge as well, so we’re looking forward to that component.”

**Q: What are your early thoughts on DeAndré Washington?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Good. DeAndré is a young guy out of Texas Tech. He’s really worked well for us thus far, so we’re putting him in different situations, again, to get a feel for he’s strengths and how we can tailor plays, tailor situations so he can really flash for us. He’s going to be good in first, second or third down. I know [special teams coordinator] Brad [Seely] is excited to have him on special teams also.”

**Q: In your experience, is it unusual to come into an offseason where you have so many of your positions set?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “I think it just varies. It just varies on what your team looks like. The personnel here, we feel very strongly about. We have good veterans, good young guys, it’s a good mix. We’re excited to work with them again and find those extra wins so we can get in the tournament.”

**Q: What were some of the questions about Derek that he’s been able to answer?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “You’d have to look back, but as we know, the draft is an inexact science. Every single player develops at a different rate and takes a different path, whether it’s where they went to high school, college, where they were drafted. It’s the players that can keep getting better year in and year out that end up having great professional careers. I think Derek is one of those guys, no matter where he was drafted. He really loves football and he’s looking to get better each and every day, and he’s shown that he’s gotten better from Year 1 to 2. I’m sure his goal is to get better from 2 to 3.”

**Q: What does Kelechi Osemele add attitude-wise and scheme-wise?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “He’s a tremendous run blocker. We’ve seen that on film when he was in Baltimore. [He’s] good in pass blocking. We anticipate his run blocking to help our run game be more productive.”

**Q: What are your observations on Joe Hansley, Johnny Holton and K.J. Brent?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Three good receivers right there that you just named, doing a lot of good stuff. Two of them had big plays today for us. We got a lot of offense in. Even though we’re just in our fourth day of OTAs, we really throw a lot of volume at our guys and make them work hard mentally and physically. There’s going to be some mistakes out there, you probably saw them today, but those guys are working hard. We just have to keep working with them.”

**Q: Are you content with how they responded to what you’ve asked of them thus far?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Most definitely, very content and excited about their futures.”



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**Q: What does adding Connor Cook do to the dynamic between Derek and Matt McGloin?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "It's a good rapport. They've welcomed Connor in the room. They have their routines in there. Those guys come in there early morning, they get ready with their scripts, they're ready for meetings, they're on top of their trade. Connor has blended right in. It's a good group with those three."

**Q: Do you want to test Connor's limits early and see how much he can handle?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Most definitely, you bet. [Quarterbacks coach] Todd Downing is going to coach those guys extremely hard. They're coming to work every day and they welcome that."

### QB Derek Carr

**Opening Statement:** "How about our Warriors, huh? Man, Steph Curry, my goodness. I guess that's why he is the MVP."

**Q: You didn't go to the game?**

**Carr:** "No, I paid for the seats on my couch. I looked at the ticket prices and said, 'No, thank you.' My wife would have been upset at me. So happy for Steph, Klay [Thompson], Draymond [Green], those guys. That's awesome because it means a lot to the city of Oakland and that means a lot to me. So, I wanted to start off with that because what they're doing is special. It's pretty cool."

**Q: As a competitor, with the Warriors and Sharks in the NBA and Stanley Cup Finals, what does that mean here?**

**Carr:** "It makes it normal and that's what I like. When my brother was drafted number one overall, when he went to the NFL, when he played 12 years, to me, that was normal – everybody's brother did that. So to see everybody doing that, 'Oh, that's normal. That's what we're supposed to do,' kind of a thing. It's something that you strive towards and just to see the city on fire for both teams is pretty sweet."

**Q: It got pretty spirited out here and Coach Del Rio said he used it as a teaching moment, saying we don't do that here...**

**Carr:** "That's right. That's right. Obviously, that's not what we're about. That's not what we want to be about. You never want to see those kind of things happen because it can cause injuries and things like that. You never want to see guys fighting, but at the same time, everyone is competitive, everyone has gotten to that point. Everyone in that weight room right now has gotten to that point where he wanted to punch a fellow teammate in the face on the football field. It happens. That's everywhere. You just have to stay away from that kind of stuff when we're on the practice field. We have to take care of each other, and we know that. Guys are just getting competitive. There are a lot of guys competing to make teams. There are a lot of guys trying to compete to secure a spot and things like that. We understand, but at the same time, we have to have the culture around here to show like what we did last year. We're not going to be about that."

**Q: So, who are you looking to punch?**

**Carr:** "Nobody. I love everybody, even you all." *(laughter)*

**Q: What have you seen so far in terms of having continuity this offseason?**

**Carr:** "It's been huge. We did something today down in the red zone that we haven't even installed yet, but we just checked to it and went with it because we're already at that point. Everyone celebrated and it was awesome and it was cool, but at the same time, we wouldn't have been able to do that last year because we didn't know the checks, we didn't know versus certain looks we wanted to do certain things and stuff like that. Just little things like that we're already a step ahead. The conversations aren't, 'Hey, you know that play we installed today, where do you want me to throw the ball in this versus what coverage?' Now, it's like, 'We know that Denver plays this a certain way, let's work here. Kansas City plays this a certain way, let's work here.' The conversations aren't here



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anymore, they're kind of here, and the more that we can be together years-wise, the conversations will continue to grow like that."

**Q: That wouldn't have been the play where you scored the touchdown, would it?**

**Carr:** "Of course!" *(laughter)*

**Q: Are you able to communicate with Bill Musgrave more so this year than last year?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, it's cool. Last year, I just wanted to learn what he wanted done, how he wanted it done. 'Oly' [former offensive coordinator Greg Olson] wanted it done a certain way. A 'what was he thinking' situation. There are people that on certain situations want you to do this. Well, what do you want me to do? Learning that, and that's something that takes a lot of time. That went all the way through the year. I had to learn how he wanted things done. That's all I'm trying to do. I just want to run his offense the exact way he wants it so he can go home and sleep good. I want to do it the way he wants it done. Now, it's like he sees that I am trying to do that and we're working together and stuff like that. He comes in the QB room all the time, asking us questions on what we think and those kinds of things. When it's back and forth like that, he empowers you. He knows how to make you feel good. Coach Musgrave is awesome. I love playing for him."

**Q: Last year was the year of the mysterious finger injury. Can you see now that you missed out of the offseason program?**

**Carr:** "I don't know what happened, man. *(laughing)* You're exactly right, no doubt. Me and T.D., [quarterbacks] coach [Todd] Downing were talking about that. I was like, 'Man, it's kind of cool how you guys get together like this and practice in the offseason.' *(laughter)* I was sitting out there in a sweatshirt not allowed to. That was tough but I see the importance of it now. I see how important it is, especially in the same offense, same system, to be able to go out there and get these practices in before the mini-camp shows up, before training camp shows up because we can work and tweak little things. I've been working on throwing the ball on certain routes, like I want to throw it extremely early just to try it, just to test it and see what you can get away with in OTAs because there is nobody out there, games aren't on the line yet. If I think it will make something better, I want to work on it. We've been able to do that a couple of times and see the benefits of having OTAs and that happen."

**Q: What did you see that made you audible on that one play you scored on?**

**Carr:** "You know, I audibled one of the plays, but I don't know if that was the one. I'll just say this: I always tell coach Musgrave, I say, 'Hey, just give it to the big back [pointing to himself] when we're down inside the five.' Latavius likes to get mad at me. I don't think I am going to make a lot of money running the football, but if I have to, we'll do it."

**Q: What is your initial impression of working with those young guys like Joe Hansley, Johnny Holton and K.J. Brent?**

**Carr:** "Those young guys, they work extremely hard and [are] really good route runners. You saw Johnny, I think if you guys saw it, he made that big catch down in the end zone today. Went up and got it, landed on his face and it was awesome. I felt bad for him, but it's football. You see Hansley always working the corners with his route-running abilities; really good. Really good routes. Very impressive. [Max] McCaffrey is a high-effort, high-motor guy all the time, whether it's walk-through, whether it's real reps. High motor all the time. And K.J. is a special route runner. I think he's a really, really good receiver and I think he'll play a long time in the NFL."

**Q: When you have the same wide receiving corps from a year ago, what areas are you looking to grow in with them?**

**Carr:** "It's a lot of timing stuff. The timing thing will always be a thing. The more years that we're together, you are going to get tired of hearing me say it, but it really is a big deal because it's never going to be perfect. I missed 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree] on an out-breaker today that we've been hitting so many times but I missed it today for some reason. My foot wasn't right or my feet weren't right. So, I have to go back and see that and constantly



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drilling it to when the game comes, that mistake doesn't happen. That's a route me and 'Crab' hit on in big situations last year to win football games. It never ends. It's always going to be there."

**Q: At the end of last year, Amari Cooper was dealing with some injuries. How difficult was that for him and was he maybe putting some extra pressure on himself?**

**Carr:** "I can just speak on his personality. I don't know how he was feeling or what he was thinking. I'll let 'Coop' and coach talk about that. Just his personality, obviously he's a young. I always joked around last year that three years ago, he was in seventh period chemistry. He's a young guy and he was just learning his way around but going to the Pro Bowl learning his way around. He's very special but now he's more open. He's more talkative. But everyone is like that their rookie year, no matter who it is. Obviously, there are outspoken guys and things like that but there is so much going on mentally in this game that a lot of guys are more reserved and quiet, not to us, but in general. Now, you see he and 'Crab' joking more because he is more comfortable. He knows his responsibility on every play and those kind of things. He definitely is a lot more open personality-wise. I don't know if he is with you all, but you can definitely see it out on the practice field that he is a lot more comfortable because there is not as much of a learning curve because he's not in his rookie year."